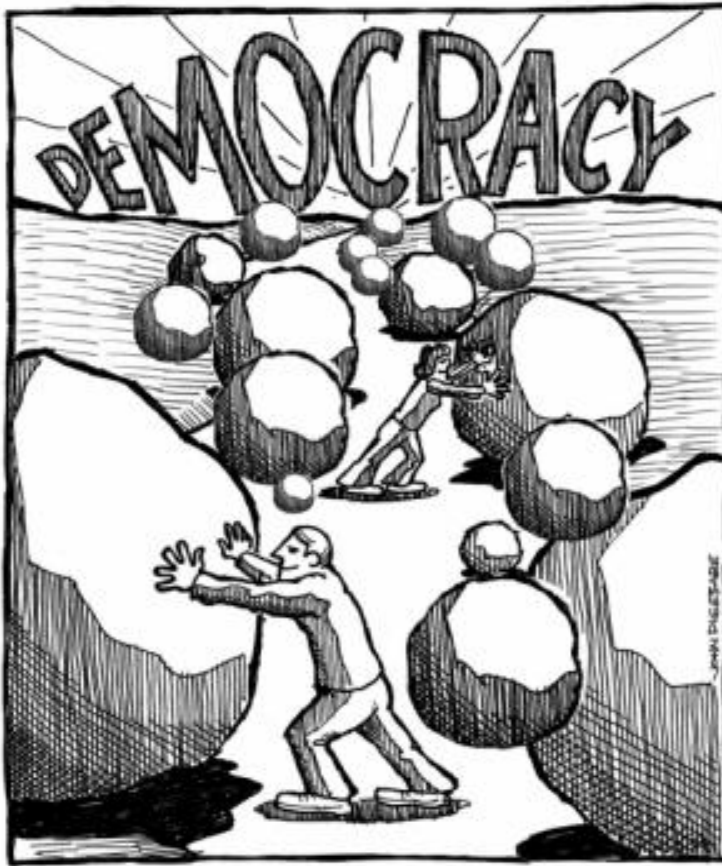




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U.S. POLICY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

11082

ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Fact sheet, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, April 6, 2011

<http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2011/160107.htm>

The Obama Administration, in its first two years in office, has dramatically changed America's course at the United Nations to advance our interests and values and help create a world of greater security and prosperity. We have repaired frayed relations with countries around the world. We've ended needless American isolation on a range of issues. And as a consequence, we've gotten strong cooperation on things that matter most to our national security interest.

What the President calls a "new era of engagement" has led to concrete results at the UN that advance U.S. foreign policy objectives and American security. The dividends of U.S. leadership at the UN are tangible – the stiffest UN sanctions ever against Iran and North Korea, renewed momentum to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials, strong sanctions and an unprecedented mandate to intervene and save lives in Libya, support for the historic and peaceful referendum for independence in Southern Sudan, vital UN assistance in Afghanistan and Iraq, and initial progress on reform of the flawed UN Human Rights Council. In a world of 21st-century threats that pay no heed to borders, rebuilding a strong basis for international cooperation has allowed the U.S. to work together with others to solve common problems at the United Nations, making the American people more secure.

11083

ALGERIA: CURRENT ISSUES

By Alexis Arieff, Congressional Research Service updated February 22, 2011, 22 pages.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS21532.pdf>

The United States has increasingly viewed the government of Algeria as an important partner in counterterrorism and the fight against Al Qaeda-linked groups in North Africa. The Algerian economy is largely based on hydrocarbons, and the country is a significant source of natural gas for the United States and Europe. Algeria receives little development assistance from the United States, but its security forces benefit from U.S. security assistance and participation in bilateral and regional military cooperation programs.

11084

AMERICA'S ENERGY SECURITY

Remarks by President Obama, March 30, 2011.

There is a White House fact sheet at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/30/remarks-president-americas-energy-security>
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/30/fact-sheet-americas-energy-security>

Rising prices at the pump affect everybody – workers and farmers; truck drivers and restaurant owners. Businesses see it impact their bottom line. Families feel the pinch when they fill up their tank. For Americans already struggling to get by, it makes life that much harder. That's why we need to make ourselves more secure and control our energy future by harnessing all of the resources that we have available and embracing a diverse energy portfolio. With an ultimate goal of reducing our dependence on oil, in the near term we must responsibly develop and produce oil and gas at home, while at the same time leveraging cleaner, alternative fuels and increasing efficiency. And beyond our efforts to reduce our dependence on oil, we must focus on expanding cleaner sources of electricity – keeping America on the cutting edge of clean energy technology so that we can build a 21st century clean energy economy and win the future.

11085

BAHRAIN: REFORM, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman, Congressional Research Service updated March 2, 2011, 23 pages.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/95-1013.pdf>

After experiencing serious unrest during the late 1990s, Bahrain's Sunni Muslim-dominated government undertook several steps to enhance the inclusion of the Shiite majority in governance. However, protests erupting following the uprising that overthrew Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on February 11, 2011, demonstrate that Shiite grievances over the distribution of power and economic opportunities remain unsatisfied. The continuing unrest—in which opposition factions have escalated their demands in response to the use of force by the government—comes four months after the October 23, 2010, parliamentary election. That election, no matter the outcome, would not have unseated the ruling Al Khalifa family from power, but the Shiite population was hoping that winning a majority in the elected lower house could give it greater authority. In advance of the elections, the government launched a wave of arrests intended to try to discredit some of the hard-line Shiite leadership as tools of Iran. The main Shiite faction, an Islamist group called “Wifaq” (Accord), won one more seat than it did in the 2006 election but still ended up short of a majority (18 out of the 40 seats) in the elected lower house.

11086

BEYOND LIBYA: ACTIVITY ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST

By Ibrahim Sharqieh, Brookings, March 22, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/interviews/2011/0322_middle_east_sharqieh.aspx

As much of the world remains focused on Muammar Qaddafi, Ibrahim Sharqieh offers a look at the current situation in the Middle East beyond Libya. Sharqieh shares his insights in an interview with Patt Morrison of Southern California Public Radio.

11087

CONVENTIONAL PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE AND LONG-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

By Amy F. Woolf, Congressional Research Service, updated March 1, 2011, 41 pages.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R41464.pdf>

Prompt global strike (PGS) would allow the United States to strike targets anywhere on earth with conventional weapons in as little as an hour. This capability may bolster U.S. efforts to deter and defeat adversaries by allowing the United States to attack high-value targets or “fleeting targets” at the start of or during a conflict. Congress has generally supported the PGS mission, but it has restricted funding and suggested some changes in funding for specific programs.

11088

CAUGHT IN THE MUDDLE: AMERICA’S PAKISTAN STRATEGY

By Paul Staniland, Washington Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 133-148.

http://www.twq.com/11winter/docs/11winter_StaniLand.pdf

In the spring of 2009, the Obama administration put Pakistan at the center of its foreign policy agenda, as decisions made by Islamabad will have a major influence on the outcome of U.S. presence in Afghanistan. Staniland, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, notes that, despite significant effort, the strategy pursued by the administration has not accomplished its ambitious goals. He writes that “U.S. policy toward Pakistan remains locked in an uncomfortable limbo awaiting further movement on U.S. commitments to Afghanistan, India—Pakistan relations, and domestic Pakistani politics.” The U.S. is subject to Pakistani influence as long as we have a large combat presence in Afghanistan. Staniland argues that the U.S. should focus its development assistance on engaging democratic leaders and civil society, and improving infrastructure and trade, and not try to fundamentally change Pakistani society. He writes, “It is unrealistic to expect a full escape from this muddle ... [but we] can achieve core goals with a mix of containment, diplomacy, and aid, while avoiding expansive, enervating commitments of dubious value.”

HANDLING THE MIDDLE EAST'S TECTONIC SHIFTS

Interview with Edward P. Djerejian, Council on Foreign Relations, April 1, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/handling-middle-east-tectonic-shifts/p24551>

The United States needs to be on the side of those in the Middle East seeking "fundamental political, economic, and human rights," says Edward P. Djerejian, a former ambassador to Syria and Israel. But during this period of turmoil, which Djerejian sees as the end of the post-colonial period in the region, the United States must "differentiate" its support. Djerejian argues, for example, that while it's appropriate for the United States to help rebels opposing Libyan dictator Muammar al-Qaddafi, he agrees with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates that Libya is not a vital national security interest and that aid should therefore be limited. In Syria, Djerejian thinks President Bashar al-Assad wants to "set his own pace of change." As for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Djerejian believes "only a strong American team can come in and bring the parties together and say, 'Look, these are the basic contours of the settlement.'" He cautions that if Israel and the Palestinians both act unilaterally--with Palestinians declaring statehood and Israel annexing major settlements--renewed violence is possible.

HARD POWER AND SOFT POWER: THE UTILITY OF MILITARY FORCE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF POLICY IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

By Colin S. Gray, Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, April 2011, 73 pages.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1059>

Power is one of the more contestable concepts in political theory. In recent decades, scholars and commentators have chosen to distinguish between two kinds of power, "hard" and "soft." The former is achieved through military threat or use, and by means of economic menace or reward. The latter is the ability to have influence by co-opting others to share some of one's values and, as a consequence, to share some key elements on one's agenda for international order and security. Whereas hard power obliges its addressees to consider their interests in terms mainly of calculable costs and benefits, soft power works through the persuasive potency of ideas that foreigners find attractive. It is highly desirable if much of the world external to America wants, or can be brought to want, a great deal of what America happens to favor also. Coalitions of the genuinely willing have to be vastly superior to the alternatives.

IMPERIAL BY DESIGN

By John Mearsheimer, National Interest, January-February 2011.

<http://nationalinterest.org/article/imperial-by-design-4576>

Mearsheimer, R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, writes that in the early years after the end of the Cold War, the U.S. was optimistic about the future of international politics, having emerged as the most powerful country on earth. For the past two decades, U.S. grand strategy has been to bring democracy to less-developed nations the world over, remaking them in America's image. The results, he notes, have been "disastrous" -- the U.S. is bogged down in two protracted wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no end in sight; we have been unable to resolve other foreign-policy challenges, such as shutting down Iran's uranium-enrichment program or preventing North Korea from obtaining nuclear weapons. In addition, our global military reach has spawned a massive national-security apparatus that has the potential to undermine civil liberties. Mearsheimer writes that our current downward spiral was not inevitable -- "we have always had a choice in how to approach grand strategy." He argues that our interests would be best served by resorting to offshore balancing, the strategy for most of U.S. history, in which our efforts are concentrated in a few strategically important areas, ensuring that rivals elsewhere are forced to concentrate in their respective regions.

IS CHINA PLAYING A DUAL GAME IN IRAN?

By John Garver, Washington Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 75-88.

http://www.twq.com/11winter/docs/11winter_Garver.pdf

Garver, professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology, notes that, over the past decade, China has cooperated with U.S. efforts at the U.N. to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. At the same time, China has delayed passage of Security Council resolutions, giving Iran valuable time, and has watered down many of the sanctions. Garver writes that China may be playing a dual game in the Persian Gulf, because Beijing has contradictory interests; it wants to maintain amicable relations with the U.S., which it sees as key to China's continuing economic growth, but at the same time, cultivates a relationship with Iran to obtain access to its energy supplies. Garver believes that there is an "anti-hegemony" aspect to China's policy, which fits in with the oil explanation; a nuclear-armed Iran would accrue benefits to Beijing, because it would force the U.S. to concentrate its military presence in the Persian Gulf, and not East Asia. He notes there is also a train of thought among Chinese analysts that China sympathizes with Iran, because China itself has been the target of U.S. "interference" and sanctions.

11093

IS THIS 1848? WHAT HISTORY CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE ARAB REVOLUTIONS

By Leon Neyfakh, Boston Globe online, March 27, 2011

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2011/03/27/is_this_1848/

The feeling of witnessing history as it unfolds before your eyes is one of those singular and uncanny things that really deserves its own word in German. It's a feeling many of us have gotten used to over the past several months, thanks in large part to events in the Middle East that have appeared every bit as dramatic as anything we ever read in our high school textbooks. Processing the unrest in real time from half a world away has been humbling: The speed of events, and the fact that no one saw them coming, has made even short-term predictions seem like a fool's errand. Even so, as bombs fall over Libya and protesters clash with government forces in Bahrain, Yemen, and Syria, the impulse to understand what's going on is extremely strong. To that end, people have reacted by doing what they often do when confronted with high-stakes uncertainty about the future: They've turned to the past.

11094

IS THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY READY FOR STATEHOOD?

By Patrick Clawson and Michael Singh, The Washington Institute, POLICYWATCH #1798, APRIL 20, 2011

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/print.php?template=C05&CID=3351>

At the April 13 meeting of the West Bank/Gaza donors group known as the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank presented reports arguing that the Palestinians are ready for statehood. Yet that judgment requires three important caveats. First, it depends on future Israel-Palestinian cooperation; second, it is contingent on Gaza's return to Palestinian Authority (PA) control; and third, it does not take into account the PA's broader political readiness for statehood, which continues to lag.

11095

LET THEM EAT BREAD, HOW FOOD SUBSIDIES PREVENT (AND PROVOKE) REVOLUTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Annia Ciezadlo, Foreign Affairs, March 23, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67672/annia-ciezadlo/let-them-eat-bread>

For years, Arab dictators used food subsidies -- and cheap bread -- to keep their subjects quiet. But when prices rose, the very thing that regimes used to ensure obedience became a symbol and a source of revolution.

11096

LIBYA AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Analysis brief by Jayshree Bajoria, Council on Foreign Relations, March 24, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/libya/libya-responsibility-protect/p24480>

As international efforts to create a no-fly zone over Libya continued into their sixth day (CNN), debate has increased about a UN resolution effectively ordering Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi to end civilian killings and whether it's being applied properly in Libya. UN Security Council Resolution 1973 imposes a no-fly zone and authorizes member states to "take all necessary measures" to protect civilians under attack from the Qaddafi's government.

11097

LIBYA: UNREST AND U.S. POLICY

By Christopher M. Blanchard, Congressional Research Service, updated March 29, 2011, 37 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159788.pdf>

Over forty years ago, Muammar al Qadhafi led a revolt against the Libyan monarchy in the name of nationalism, self-determination, and popular sovereignty. Opposition groups citing the same principles are now revolting against Qadhafi to bring an end to the authoritarian political system he has controlled in Libya for the last four decades. The Libyan government's use of force against civilians and opposition forces seeking Qadhafi's overthrow sparked an international outcry in February and early March 2011, and a stalemate began to break in favor of the Qadhafi government, threatening civilians in opposition-held areas. The United States and other European and Arab states are now carrying out military an operation in Libya to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which was adopted on March 17 and authorizes "all necessary measures" to protect Libyan civilians. Qadhafi and his supporters have described the uprising as a foreign and Islamist conspiracy and are attempting to outlast their opponents. Qadhafi remains defiant amid the dismantling of his military by coalition air strikes. His supporters threatened to respond to attacks by striking civilian and military targets in the Mediterranean region.

11098

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA UNREST: IMPLICATIONS FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS MARKETS

By Michael Ratner and Neelesh Nerurkar, Congressional Research Service, March 10, 2011

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41683.pdf>

Political unrest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has contributed to higher oil prices and added instability to energy markets. Supply disruptions and fears about the possible spread of unrest to major exporters have pushed prices higher. Even if the crisis abates, some risk premium may persist to the degree that market participants fear such an event could occur again.

MOROCCO: CURRENT ISSUES

By Alexis Arieff, Congressional Research Service, updated February 23, 2011, 18 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/158517.pdf>

The United States government views Morocco as a moderate Arab regime, an important ally against terrorism, and a free trade partner. Congress is particularly interested in Morocco because it is a recipient of considerable U.S. foreign assistance to help it combat terror and to develop.

Morocco is also a significant purchaser of U.S. arms. King Mohammed VI retains supreme political power in Morocco, but has taken some liberalizing steps with uncertain effects. Since 2005, several elections have met international standards. The government has focused on economic reforms that could alleviate poverty as a way to prevent radicalization and terrorism. It also has begun several major renewable energy projects to lessen dependence on foreign sources. Domestic politics are currently focused on a developing rivalry between the Party for Authenticity and Modernity (PAM), established in 2008 by a former classmate of the king, and the moderate Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD), which previously had been on the rise.

11100

THE NEW TERRITORIAL IMPERATIVE

By John Hickman, Comparative Strategy, vol. 29, no. 5, December 2010, pp. 405-411.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

In the 1990s, many scholars predicted that the nation-state was in decline, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. However, events over the last decade contradict these predictions. The author, with the Department of Government and International Studies at Berry College in Georgia, writes that the state remains the primary focus for researchers of international relations, because territory is the primary basis for power in the international system. He notes that Russia has not hesitated to wage war for control of territory, and has reestablished much of its traditional sphere of influence. Indonesia and India, which both battle multiple separatist insurgencies in the 1990s, have resisted fragmentation. Two new articles of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea allow coastal states to claim sovereignty over much wider exclusive economic zones than before, and over geographic features such as the continental shelf; over a third of the world's oceans may now be claimed as sovereign territory. Hickman believes that natural resource depletion may become a primary motivator in the future for claims of territorial sovereignty.

11101

NUCLEAR WEAPONS R&D ORGANIZATIONS IN NINE NATIONS

(The nine nations referred to are the United States, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia and the United Kingdom)

By Congressional Research Service, February 28, 2011, 13 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/158493.pdf>

Seven nations—China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—possess nuclear weapons. In addition, North Korea tested a nuclear explosive device in 2006 and announced that it had conducted another such test in 2009, and Israel is widely thought to have nuclear weapons. As an aid to Congress in understanding nuclear weapons, nuclear proliferation, and arms control matters, this report describes which agency is responsible for research and development (R&D) of nuclear weapons (i.e., nuclear explosive devices, as distinct from the bombers and missiles that deliver them) in these nations and whether these agencies are civilian or military. It also traces the history of such agencies in the United States from 1942 to the present. This report will be updated annually, or more often as developments warrant. In the United States, the Army managed the nuclear weapons program during World War II. Since 1946, weapons R&D has been managed by civilian agencies, at present by the National Nuclear Security Administration, a semiautonomous agency in the Department of Energy.

11102

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND THE ARAB SPRING

By Kemal Derviş, The Brookings Institution, April 01, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0401_obama_arab_spring_dervis.aspx

There has been a lot of criticism as to how the Obama administration has handled the Libyan crisis, amidst a wider debate on the Arab Spring and U.S. policy. Most of the critics point to indecisiveness, unwillingness to lead and lack of clarity in defining the objectives for the United States or the international community. Rightly, these critics argue that neither the UN, nor the European Union, nor the Arab League have the cohesion, unity of purpose and, in particular, the military capacity to lead the international community. President Obama should have defined clear objectives from the start, put the United States in a political and military leadership position, and should now be leading the international effort in Libya and the entire region, it is argued...

11103

OBAMA'S SENSIBLE OIL AND GAS SHIFT

"First take" analysis by Michael A. Levi, Council on Foreign Relations, March 30, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/energyenvironment/obamas-sensible-oil-gas-shift/p24534>

President Barack Obama's speech this morning signals an important shift in the administration's thinking on energy. The president has not abandoned his previous emphasis on transformative technology and reducing demand for oil, nor should he. But he appears to have elevated the role of oil and gas production in his strategy by emphasizing its importance within a comprehensive approach. This is smart thinking and smart politics, but he now faces big challenges in translating his vision into policy. He will also struggle to follow through in the face of inevitable opposition from both the left and the right.

11104

"OBSTACLES ON THE PATH OF TUNISIA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION"

By Asma Nouira, March 30, 2011

E: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/arb/?fa=downloadArticlePDF&article=43347>

A: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/arb/?fa=show&article=43350&lang=ar>

The fact that Tunisia's revolution was spontaneous—neither planned by any leadership nor producing one—is a blessing and a curse to its transition to democracy. On one hand, the solidarity among many sectors of society and organizations such as labor unions has been a decided benefit. On the other, the lack of leadership poses difficulties in establishing the foundations of political reform and the legitimacy of representation.

Regarding the foundations of political reform, Tunisians—the people, the elite, and the government—have vacillated between constitutional legitimacy and revolutionary legitimacy. After Tunisian demonstrators forced former President Zine Abidine Ben Ali to step down from his post, he temporarily delegated his authority to the prime minister in accordance with Article 56 of the Constitution. Then,

11105

OMAN: REFORM, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman, Congressional Research Service, updated March 1, 2011, 16 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/158474.pdf>

The Sultanate of Oman is a long-time U.S. ally in the Persian Gulf. It has allowed U.S. access to its military facilities for virtually every U.S. military operation in and around the Gulf since 1980, despite the sensitivities in Oman and throughout the Middle East about a U.S. military presence there. Oman also has fully and consistently supported U.S. efforts to achieve a Middle East peace by publicly endorsing the peace treaties that have been achieved between Israel and some of its Arab neighbors, and by occasionally hosting Israeli political leaders or meeting with them outside Oman. It was partly in appreciation for this alliance that the United States entered into a free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman. The FTA was considered pivotal to helping Oman diversify its economy to compensate for its relatively small reserves of crude oil.

OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN (LIBYA)

By Jeremiah Gertler, Coordinator, Background and Issues for Congress, Congressional Research Service, March 28, 2011, 33 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159790.pdf>

The ongoing uprising in Libya against the government of Muammar al Qadhafi has been the subject of evolving domestic and international debate about potential international military intervention, including the proposed establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya. On March 17, 2011, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1973, establishing a no-fly zone in Libyan airspace, authorizing robust enforcement measures for the arms embargo established by Resolution 1970, and authorizing member states “to take all necessary measures ... to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, including Benghazi, while excluding a foreign occupation force of any form on any part of Libyan territory.”

In response, the United States established Operation Odyssey Dawn, the U.S. contribution to a multilateral military effort to enforce a no-fly zone and protect civilians in Libya. Military operations under Odyssey Dawn commenced on March 19, 2011. U.S. and coalition forces quickly established command of the air over Libya’s major cities, destroying portions of the Libyan air defense network and attacking pro-Qadhafi forces deemed to pose a threat to civilian populations.

11107

POLITICAL ISLAM: A MARXIST ANALYSIS

By DEEPA KUMAR, International Social Review, ISR Issue 76, March–April 2011

<http://www.isreview.org/issues/76/feat-islam1.shtml>

Deepa Kumar is a critical media studies scholar who is active in various social movements for peace and justice. Her first book, *Outside the Box: Corporate Media, Globalization and the UPS Strike*, is now available in paperback. She is currently working on her second book, on the U.S. media, political Islam, and the Middle East.

SINCE THE events of 9/11, the question of political Islam has taken center stage in world politics. The “war on terror” has transformed the whole discussion on the relationship between Islam the West. A slew of books and essays have appeared on this topic since then.

Predictably, conservative analysts, recycling old Orientalist clichés, have advanced the idea that the West is once again at war with “Islam.” The underlying logic behind this argument is “we” are secular and democratic, while “they” are mired in the backwardness born out of an adherence to Islam. These arguments have become part of the common-sense ideology in the United States and elsewhere.

POPULAR PROTEST IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (I): EGYPT VICTORIOUS?

By International Crisis Group, Middle East/North Africa Report N°101 24 Feb 2011

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/north-africa/egypt/101-popular-protest-in-north-africa-and-the-middle-east-I-egypt-victorious.aspx>

It is early days, and the true measure of what the Egyptian people have accomplished has yet to fully sink in. Some achievements are as clear as they are stunning. Over a period of less than three weeks, they challenged conventional chestnuts about Arab lethargy; transformed national politics; opened up the political space to new actors; massively reinforced protests throughout the region; and called into question fundamental pillars of the Middle East order. They did this without foreign help and, indeed, with much of the world timidly watching and waffling according to shifting daily predictions of their allies' fortunes. The challenge now is to translate street activism into inclusive, democratic institutional politics so that a popular protest that culminated in a military coup does not end there.

The backdrop to the uprising has a familiar ring. Egypt suffered from decades of authoritarian rule, a lifeless political environment virtually monopolised by the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP); widespread corruption, cronyism and glaring inequities; and a pattern of abuse at the hands of unaccountable security forces. For years, agitation against the regime spread and, without any credible mechanism to express or channel public discontent, increasingly took the shape of protest movements and labour unrest.

POPULAR PROTEST IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (II): YEMEN BETWEEN REFORM AND REVOLUTION

By International Crisis Group, MENA Report, Report N°102, 10 Mar 2011

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/iran-gulf/yemen/102-popular-protest-in-north-africa-and-the-middle-east-II-yemen-between-reform-and-revolution.aspx>

http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iran%20Gulf/Yemen/102%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20II_%20Yemen%20between%20Reform%20and%20Revolution.ashx

Even before the popular wave from Tunisia and Egypt reached Yemen, President Saleh's regime faced daunting challenges. In the north, it is battling the Huthi rebellion, in the south, an ever-growing secessionist movement. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is showing mounting signs of activism. Sanaa's political class is locked in a two-year battle over electoral and constitutional reforms; behind the scenes, a fierce competition for post-Saleh spoils is underway. Economic conditions for average Yemenis are dire and worsening. Now this. There is fear the protest movement could push the country to the brink and unleash broad civil strife. But it also could, and should, be a wake-up call, a catalyst for swift, far-reaching reforms leading to genuine power-sharing and accountable, representative institutions. The international community's role is to promote national dialogue, prioritise political and economic development aid and ensure security aid is not used to suppress opposition.

POPULAR PROTESTS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (III): THE BAHRAIN REVOLT

By International Crisis Group, MENA Report N°105 6 Apr 2011

http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/iran-gulf/bahrain/105-popular-protests-in-north-africa-and-the-middle-east-iii-the-bahrain-revolt.aspx?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=facebook

Full Report:

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/-/media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iran%20oGulf/Bahrain/105-%20Popular%20Protests%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20-III-The%20Bahrain%20Revolt.ashx>

Manama's crackdown and Saudi Arabia's military intervention are dangerous moves that could stamp out hopes for peaceful transition in Bahrain and turn a mass movement for democratic reform into an armed conflict, while regionalising an internal political struggle. They could also exacerbate sectarian tensions not only in Bahrain or the Gulf but across the region. Along with other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Saudi Arabia purportedly is responding to dual fears: that the popular uprising could lead to a Shiite takeover, and a Shiite takeover would be tantamount to an Iranian one. Both are largely unfounded. It also is concerned protests might inspire similar movements among its own Eastern Province Shiites, oblivious that its involvement is likelier to provoke than deter them. Bahrain's brutal crackdown and Saudi interference fan flames both want to extinguish. The most effective response to the radical regime change threat or greater Iranian influence is not violent suppression of peaceful protests but political reform. Time is running short and trends are in the wrong direction.

POWER AND THE PRESIDENCY, FROM KENNEDY TO OBAMA

By Robert Dallek, Smithsonian, Vol. 41, No. 9, January 2011, pp. 36-43.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Power-and-the-Presidency-From-Kennedy-to-Obama.html>

Dallek, a historian and John F. Kennedy biographer, notes that in spite of his short term, Kennedy presided over tense escalations in foreign affairs. He responded to a heightened arms race with the Soviet Union and the Cuban missile crisis by expanding the power of his office, and claiming for the presidency a broad autonomy in foreign-affairs decision-making. Dallek traces how Kennedy's successors also faced crises during their terms, their responses to them and their interactions with Congress in charting U.S. policy. Approaching the issue in the context of current events, Dallek says even today's leaders seem not to have grasped the dire political risks that may arise as a result of unilateral decision-making in foreign affairs.

11112

REVOLUTION AS A SPONTANEOUS TRANSITION IN A SIMPLE MODEL WITH ANTICONFORMISTS

By Piotr Nyczka, Katarzyna Sznajd—Weron, Cornell University, 2 Mar 2011.

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1103.0417>

We consider kinetic Ising spin model with anticonformists on a complete graph. We use Glauber zero-temperature dynamics (which is, on a complete graph, equivalent with a Sznajd model) to describe the most popular type of the social influence -- conformity. In our model conformal behavior appears always in a case of unanimous majority, while anticonformity with probability p . We show using analytical approach based on a transition matrix for a Markov chain, as well as Monte Carlo simulation, continuous phase transition between ordered and disordered phase.

11113

STATES OF CONFLICT: AN UPDATE.

By Michael E. O'Hanlon and others, Brookings Institution, April 10, 2011 (situation in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan)

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0412_iraq_ohanlon.aspx

Leaving aside all the new conflicts in the Middle East, how are our nation's longstanding struggles in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan going?

Iraq had the best winter of the three. Bombings by insurgents continued, but the disputes over last year's general election finally tapered off, and the waves of revolution that affected much of the region mostly missed the country. There may be rougher times to come, as United States forces are supposed to withdraw entirely by the end of December, likely leaving big issues like territorial disputes between Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen in the north unresolved. But Iraq is going through a period of at least temporary stability, and oil production and the economy are inching upward.

11114

SUDAN: THE CRISIS IN DARFUR AND THE STATUS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH PEACE AGREEMENT

By Ted Dagne, Congressional Research Service updated April 8, 2011, 38 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/161331.pdf>

Sudan, geographically the largest country in Africa, has been ravaged by civil war intermittently for four decades. More than 2 million people have died in Southern Sudan over the past two decades due to war-related causes and famine, and millions have been displaced from their homes. There were many failed attempts to end the civil war in Southern Sudan. In July 2002, the Sudan government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed a peace framework agreement in Kenya.

On May 26, 2004, the government of Sudan and the SPLM signed three protocols on Power Sharing, on the Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile, and on the long disputed Abyei area.

The signing of these protocols resolved all outstanding issues between the parties. On June 5, 2004, the parties signed “the Nairobi Declaration on the Final Phase of Peace in the Sudan.” On January 9, 2005, the government of Sudan and the SPLM signed the final peace agreement at a ceremony held in Nairobi, Kenya. In April 2010, Sudan held national and regional elections. In January 2011, South Sudan held a referendum to decide on unity or independence. Abyei was also expected to hold a referendum in January 2011 to decide whether to retain the current special administrative status or to be part of South Sudan. The Abyei referendum did not take place. In the Southern referendum, 98.8% voted for independence and

1.4% for unity.

11115

SYRIA: ONE STEP FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK

By Andrew J. Tabler, The Washington Institute, April 20, 2011

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/print.php?template=C06&CID=1616>

In the face of mounting public protests throughout Syria, the Bashar al-Asad regime yesterday canceled the forty-eight-year-old Emergency Law that permitted the regime to arrest and detain citizens indefinitely without charge. It also abolished the dreaded state security court and announced it will allow peaceful protests -- but only with government permission. Yet, overnight, the Syrian secret police arrested a popular opposition figure, Mahmoud Issa, who was taken from his home in the city of Homs.

Asad's concessions are unlikely to satisfy the protestors, as a number of other laws -- as well as the introduction of a new "anti-terrorism" law -- allow the regime to continue its brutal oppression. Furthermore, the regime's track record on following through on other promised political reforms, including a new political parties law, has been extremely poor.

11116

USCIRF WELCOMES MOVE AWAY FROM “DEFAMATION OF RELIGIONS” CONCEPT

News release, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, March 24, 2011

<http://www.uscifr.gov/news-room/press-releases/3570-uscifr-welcomes-move-away-from-defamation-of-religions-concept.html>

WASHINGTON, DC –The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) welcomed the UN Human Rights Council’s significant step away from the pernicious “defamation of religions” concept. Today, the Council adopted a resolution on religious intolerance that does not include this dangerous concept. The defamation concept undermines individual rights to freedom of religion and expression; exacerbates religious intolerance, discrimination, and violence; and provides international support for domestic blasphemy laws that often have led to gross human rights abuses.

THE U.S.-EU COUNTERTERRORISM RELATIONSHIP: AN AGENDA FOR COOPERATION

By Sally McNamara, Heritage Foundation, March 8, 2011

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/bg2528.pdf

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2011/03/The-EU-US-Counterterrorism-Relationship-An-Agenda-for-Cooperation>

After 9/11, the nations of Europe displayed extraordinary solidarity with the United States, and a decade later both sides of the Atlantic still know they need each other to fight the global threat of Islamist terror. But the EU-U.S. counterterrorism relationship has been marked as much by confrontation as it has by cooperation. As a result of the Lisbon Treaty, the powers of the European Parliament have grown immensely, and the parliament opposes several key—and successful—U.S. data-sharing programs. Instead, the parliament supports a greater counterterrorism role from untested EU institutions, such as Europol and Eurojust. The EU also looks the other way while Hezbollah continues raising political and financial support in Europe. The EU's supranational approach often comes at the expense of more effective relations between the U.S. and individual EU states. Heritage Foundation EU and transatlantic security expert Sally McNamara lays out an agenda for fruitful cooperation between Europe and the United States.

11118

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, February 28, 2011.

<http://www.state.gov/s/d/2011/159477.htm>

It's often said when we think about the challenges that we face that history is accelerating, that the first derivative of historical change is not just positive, but it's an upward sloping curve. And my own career in government is a microcosm of this broader truth. When I joined the Justice Department in 1979, one of the principal jobs I was handed after just a few months in office was working with then-Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher to manage the Iranian hostage crisis in the wake of the Iranian revolution. When I returned in 1993, I went to work again with Warren Christopher – who was at that point now a Secretary of State – to help shape the new global order following the end of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

11119

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE LIBYA CRISIS

Fact sheet, U.S. Dept of State, April 6, 2011

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2011/04/160084.htm>

The U.S. Government has provided \$47 million to international and non-governmental organizations to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of people fleeing the violence in Libya. (Please see chart below for details.) We have deployed a team of disaster response experts to the region, and are working closely with host governments, the United Nations, NGOs and other international partners to assess and address urgent humanitarian needs in Libya and neighboring countries.

U.S. Government humanitarian assistance is also reaching beneficiaries inside Libya, providing needed medical supplies and staff, pre-positioning and distributing emergency relief commodities, and supporting medical training for mass casualty care and transport.

More than 439,000 people have fled from Libya since late February and more than 210,000 of these have been third-country nationals.. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), roughly 6,000 people cross Libyan borders every day.

IOM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have provided direct transportation assistance to repatriate more than 90,000 people from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, and Niger. As of April 5, more than 13,000 people are awaiting evacuation assistance.

11120

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA IN 2011: IMPLICATION OF CURRENT EVENTS

Address by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson, at the Woodrow Wilson Center, April 5, 2011

<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/2011/160295.htm>

My original goal for today's talk was to provide you with a broad overview of the major issues and policies we anticipate for the coming year. Before I do that, however, I would like to first draw your attention to two situations of grave and immediate concern to the United States. The first has largely been eclipsed by developments in places such as Japan, North Africa, and the Middle East. It is not making big headlines or receiving much coverage on the news networks. Nonetheless, it is something on which we should all be focused. I'm talking about the elections in Nigeria.

11121

THE U.S. ROLE IN OUR CHANGING WORLD: NAVIGATING THE WORLD'S TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES

Speech by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Esther Brimmer, in Seattle, March 30, 2011 (U.S. multilateral engagement and the United Nations)

<http://www.state.gov/p/io/rm/2011/159505.htm>

Ladies and gentlemen, is as concise a definition of multilateralism as I have seen, and it frames the Administration's approach to global issues of every stripe, large and small. Ultimately, it's about shared responses to shared challenges, and the President has charted a clear course for U.S. foreign policy designed to maximize the benefits of multilateral engagement.

11122

U.S. STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES *Background, Developments, and Issues,*

By Amy F. Wool, Congressional Research Service, March 10, 2011, 33 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159349.pdf>

During discussions about the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, Congress reviewed and discussed the plans for maintaining and modernizing U.S. strategic nuclear forces. Although the United States plans to reduce the number of warheads deployed on its long-range missiles and bombers, consistent with the terms of the New START Treaty, it also plans to develop new delivery systems for deployment over the next 20-30 years. As a result, the 112th Congress will continue to review these programs during the annual authorization and appropriations process.

During the Cold War, the U.S. nuclear arsenal contained many types of delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons. The longer range systems, which included long-range missiles based on U.S. territory, long-range missiles based on submarines, and heavy bombers that could threaten Soviet targets from their bases in the United States, are known as strategic nuclear delivery vehicles. At the end of the Cold War, in 1991, the United States deployed more than 10,000 warheads on these delivery vehicles. That number has declined to less than 6,000 warheads today, and is slated to decline to 1,550 warheads by the year 2017 if the New START Treaty enters into force.

11123

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: STRATEGY, OPERATIONS, AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

By Catherine Dale, Congressional Research Service, updated March 9, 2011

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R40156.pdf>

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched and led military operations in Afghanistan in order to end the ability of the Taliban regime to provide safe haven to al Qaeda and to put a stop to al Qaeda's use of the territory of Afghanistan as a base of operations for terrorist activities. Many observers argue that in succeeding years, as U.S. and world attention shifted sharply to the war in Iraq, the Afghan war became the "other war" and suffered from neglect. The Obama Administration, however, has made the war in Afghanistan a higher priority, by giving it early attention, regularly conducting strategy reviews, and making significant additional commitments of civilian and military resources. By early 2011, senior leaders, including the Commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), General David Petraeus, were pointing to discrete progress on the ground, though noting that such progress was still "fragile and reversible."

In late 2010, NATO and the Afghan government agreed to pursue a key medium-term goal: the transition of lead responsibility for security to Afghans throughout the country by the end of 2014. The U.S. government has stated its intention to begin drawing down some U.S. forces from Afghanistan in July 2011, and also to maintain a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan beyond 2014.

11124

WHY MIDDLE EAST MONARCHIES MIGHT HOLD ON

By Shadi Hamid, Brookings, Doha Center. Brookings Institution, March 8, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0308_middle_east_hamid.aspx

Arab monarchies were long thought to be more favorable to democratization than republics. Monarchs who enjoyed popular legitimacy and political security are on balance more willing to take risks, the argument went, gradually letting go of power and embarking on potentially destabilizing reforms. Since kings do not depend on elections to maintain power, they have less to fear from holding them. But the region's uprisings seem to demonstrate that republics are the most promising candidates for systemic change. Egypt and Tunisia, both led by unpopular presidents, were the first to go. The other likely candidates for revolutions — Libya, Yemen, and possibly Algeria — are all republics.

Two distinct models for change are emerging. In republics, the person of the president, because of his dominating, partisan role, provides a rallying point for an otherwise fractious opposition. The protesters may disagree on how their country should be run and by whom, but they at least agree one thing: the president must go. The goal isn't political change, which can mean many different things in execution, but regime change.

11125

WORLDWIDE APPROVAL OF U.S. LEADERSHIP TOPS MAJOR POWERS

By Gallup, March 24, 2011.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/146771/Worldwide-Approval-Leadership-Tops-Major-Powers.aspx>

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The United States continues to achieve higher global approval ratings than China, Russia, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Gallup's worldwide surveys document a noticeable change in the U.S. global leadership position from 2007 and 2008, when the U.S. trailed other major powers. The increases the U.S. saw in 2009 did not necessarily carry over into 2010, and approval suffered double-digit declines in 14 countries, including Egypt, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

11126

YEMEN: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Jeremy M. Sharp, Congressional Research Service, updated March 22, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159782.pdf>

Unrest in the Arab world has amplified existing political tension in Yemen. Sustained mass protests and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's attempts to preempt a broad crisis with concessions have concentrated U.S. and international attention on the daunting array of political and development challenges facing Yemen. President Saleh now faces senior level defections from his regime and his departure may be imminent. Congress and U.S. policymakers may be concerned with prospects for stabilizing Yemen and establishing strong bilateral relations with future Yemeni leaders.

With limited natural resources, a crippling illiteracy rate, and high population growth, some observers believe Yemen is at risk for becoming a failed state. In 2009, Yemen ranked 140 out of 182 countries on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, a score comparable to the poorest sub-Saharan African countries. Over 43% of the population of nearly 24 million people lives below the poverty line, and per capita GDP is estimated to be between \$650 and \$800. Yemen is largely dependent on external aid from Persian Gulf countries, Western donors, and international financial institutions, though its per capita share of assistance is below the global average.

EGYPT

11127

AROUND THE HALLS: A NEW EGYPT

By Shadi Hamid, Martin S. Indyk, Kenneth M. Pollack and Shibley Telhami, Brookings, February 11, 2011

Full Text: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0211_halls_egypt.aspx

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/around-halls-new-egypt/p24122>

In the wake of Mubarak's ouster experts discuss the future of Egypt and the reverberations in the Arab world and beyond.

It took 18 days. Egyptians had their revolution. The morning after the revolution, I spent some time in Tahrir ("Liberation") Square talking to a few of the youth activists who made February 11 possible.

The sense of both relief and celebration is palpable. But that feeling of celebration is unlikely to last. Nothing can take away the achievements of the past weeks, but it is worth noting that the revolution is not complete and its promises far from fulfilled. A military takeover is not the same thing as democracy. And so, today, the slow, difficult – and often painful – work of democratic transitions begins.

The military is in charge, but no one quite knows what the military wants. The army has been treated as an independent actor, and one naturally close to the people. But the Egyptian military, long the backbone of the old regime, bears some responsibility for the past several decades of repression. It is possible that, with the world watching and Egyptians hoping, the military will transform itself into a force for Egyptian democracy. It is also possible that it won't.

11128

DAILY BEAST: THE 83 YEAR OLD WHO TOPPLED EGYPT

By Samuel P. Jacobs, Council on Foreign Relations, February 14, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/daily-beast-83-year-old-toppled-egypt/p24128>

Samuel P. Jacobs reports on the stunning impact of Gene Sharp, the head of the Boston-based Albert Einstein Institute whose "From Dictatorships to Democracy" inspired revolutionaries in Cairo and beyond.

There are many roots of the Egyptian revolution. But one of the most unlikely goes back to an East Boston rowhouse, where an 83-year-old named Gene Sharp runs a shoestring operation called the Albert Einstein Institute—and arguably just changed the course of history.

For the last half century, Sharp has been writing about nonviolent protest, and trying to make his ideas accessible to dissidents the world over. No mean feat, given that his signature work, *The Politics of Non-Violent Action*, weighs in at 900 pages and was published in 1973. But it's working. Thanks in part to a distillation of his ideas entitled *From Dictatorships to Democracy*, which can be downloaded from Sharp's website in dozens of languages, his gospel of upheaval has apparently become essential reading for budding revolutionaries in Cairo and parts beyond.

11129

ECONOMIC REFORMS A MUST FOR DEMOCRATIC EGYPT

By Kim R. Holmes, Ph.D., Heritage Foundation, Published on February 9, 2011

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Commentary/2011/02/Economic-Reforms-a-Must-for-Democratic-Egypt>

What's behind Egypt's unrest? Is it really lack of democracy?

The protesters agree that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak must go, but there does not seem to be a unifying vision of what should happen next. What kind of government and society do they want to see replace the current regime?

We need to figure it out. If we don't, if we misjudge the situation, we will find ourselves ill-prepared to deal with the new order or leader that emerges.

Let's start with what the situation is not: An Islamist revolt. While many Egyptian Muslims may hold illiberal views about other religions, most of the protesters are young and

secular, not motivated by a desire to get closer to Allah. The Muslim Brotherhood will certainly try to take advantage of the unrest, but their cause did not spark this rebellion.

11130

EGYPT AFTER THE REVOLUTION: AN EARLY ASSESSMENT

By Dina Guirguis and David Schenker, PolicyWatch #1796: Special Forum Report, April 14, 2011.

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/print.php?template=C05&CID=3348>

On April 11, 2011, J. Scott Carpenter, Dina Guirguis, David Schenker, and Robert Satloff addressed a special Policy Forum luncheon at The Washington Institute. Ms. Guirguis is a Keston Family research fellow with Project Fikra: Defeating Extremism through the Power of Ideas. Mr. Schenker is the Aufzien fellow and director of the Program on Arab Politics at the Institute. The following is a rapporteur's summary of Ms. Guirguis and Mr. Schenker's remarks. Dr. Satloff and Mr. Carpenter's remarks will be published separately.

11131

EGYPT'S CONSTITUTIONAL GHOSTS

Deciding the Terms of Cairo's Democratic Transition

By Nathan J. Brown, Foreign Affairs, February 15, 2011

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/67285>

Egypt has a long constitutional history -- some of it liberal, some of it authoritarian. As Egypt's reformers look to create a new political order after Mubarak, what sort of basic document will they need?

Egyptians seeking to build a new future after the rule of Hosni Mubarak hope to draw on, as well as correct, the flaws in the country's longstanding constitutional tradition. In the days since a military council took power from Mubarak, the country's political opposition has been quick to articulate its demands in the language of dry legal texts and procedures.

11132

EGYPT: CRIME RISES, BUT CONCERNS ARE EXAGGERATED

By Oxford Analytica, Thursday, March 31 2011

<http://www.oxan.com/display.aspx?ItemID=DB167172>

The turmoil of the recent uprising and the collapse of civilian security services has led to concern about rising crime, with implications for foreign investors and political debate in the post-Mubarak era.

A rise in crime was inevitable after the collapse of the Ministry of Interior and its policing forces after January 28. A priority of the military leadership has been gradually to restore policing (focusing initially on regular police) so that it is able to withdraw soldiers and military police from the streets. While insecurity has been an issue of concern in Egyptian media and for foreign companies and embassies, it has also been exaggerated: by global standards, Egypt remains largely safe outside of areas where troubles pre-existed the revolution, such as inner Sinai.

11133

EGYPT'S DEMOCRATIC MIRAGE, HOW CAIRO'S AUTHORITARIAN REGIME IS ADAPTING TO PRESERVE ITSELF

By Joshua Stacher, Foreign Affairs, February 7, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67351/joshua-stacher/egypts-democratic-mirage>

By playing the role of both arsonist and firefighter, the Egyptian government has forced protesters fleeing the regime to seek refuge with the regime. In so doing, has the government ensured its survival?

11134

THE "EGYPT EFFECT" ON PALESTINIAN POLITICS

By Khaled Elgindy, Brookings, March 1, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0301_egypt_palestine_elgindy.aspx

The Egyptian uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak after nearly 30 years in power was a watershed moment in the Middle East, inspiring a wave of rebellions and serving notice to Arab governments that no leader is immune from the collective wrath of his people.

At a time when overtly repressive regimes in Libya and elsewhere are responding to popular challenges to their rule with iron-fisted violence, it may be easy to overlook the more subtle influence the "Egypt effect" is having on other governments with serious, if not yet fatal, legitimacy problems of their own.

Among the governments seeking to shore up their domestic legitimacy is the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority. While nothing indicates that President Mahmoud Abbas will be the next domino to fall, the Egypt effect is already manifesting itself in the realignment of the Palestinian Authority's political priorities.

11135

EGYPT'S ENDURING CHALLENGES: SHAPING THE POST-MUBARAK ENVIRONMENT

By David Schenker, the Washington Institute, Policy Focus #110, April 2011.

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/pubPDFs/PolicyFocus110.pdf>

Although the Papyrus Revolution was a remarkable accomplishment for the Egyptian people, the ongoing transition has spurred trepidation as well as hope in the United States. Past transfers of power in Cairo have led to dramatic policy shifts, giving Washington little reason to believe that the latest leadership change will be different. And while the Mubarak regime may be gone, much of the security apparatus, bureaucracy, and economic dysfunction that sparked the revolution remain in place. As a new, presumably liberal-led government takes shape, these and other challenges will place tremendous pressure on both Cairo and the U.S.-Egyptian relationship.

In this new Policy Focus, Washington Institute senior fellow and former Pentagon official David Schenker describes the concrete steps Washington can take to shore up Egypt's next leaders, preserve the revolution's democratic direction, and prevent the sort of stagnation that could foster Islamist ascendance. This effort entails investing heavily and quickly in the new government's success by maintaining current aid levels while increasing engagement between U.S. and Egyptian NGOs on electoral, governance, and civil-society issues. Washington should also encourage Egypt to reinvigorate its waning regional role through stabilization efforts in Sudan, Libya, and Gaza. By improving Cairo's standing at home and abroad, the United States can help ensure that Egypt's democratic experiment succeeds.

11136

EGYPT IN TRANSITION

By Chatham House, April 2011, 15 pages.

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/19113_0411egypt.pdf

"This paper is a summary of discussions that took place at a workshop held in Cairo in March 2011, six weeks after the former president, Hosni Mubarak, was forced to resign in the face of mass protests against his rule. Entitled 'Egypt in Transition', the workshop brought together a group of Egyptian activists, opposition party members, journalists and representatives of civil society organizations from across the political spectrum with a small number of UK policy-makers to discuss Egypt's changing political landscape and its relations with the UK and the West."

11137

EGYPT'S REFERENDUM: NERVOUS STEPS FORWARD

Interview with Steven A. Cook, Council on Foreign Relations, March 21, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/egypts-referendum-nervous-steps-forward/p24452>

Despite the opposition of the revolutionary youth who led the fight to overthrow president Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian population approved the military-sponsored referendum on changes to the constitution. CFR Senior Fellow Steven A. Cook says "the overwhelming 'yes' vote suggests that the Egyptian military was correct in believing that this package of proposed amendments would be enough for the vast majority of Egyptians." He says that Amr Moussa, the secretary-general of the Arab League, is a leading candidate for the presidency and unlike the young revolutionaries, Moussa is "a member of the establishment, which doesn't necessarily make the military uncomfortable."

THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION: A PARTICIPANT'S ACCOUNT FROM TAHRIR SQUARE, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2011

By Mohammed Abouelleil Rashed and Islam El Azzazi, Anthropology Today, Volume 27, Issue 2, April 2011, Pages: 22–27,

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2011.00798.x/pdf>

On 25 January 2011, Egyptians took to the streets demanding political and social reform. In Cairo, protesters converged upon Tahrir ('Liberation') Square, which remained constantly occupied until the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak on 11 February. In this narrative, the author recounts his experiences over 12 days as a participant in what is now referred to as the Egyptian revolution. He concludes with reflections on the situation that emerged in the square, focusing in particular on some of the factors that may have contributed to the success of its continued occupation: the swift creation of an embryonic form of community, and the receding of the usual identities based on class and religion in favour of a simple yet powerful identity as people of the revolution.

EGYPT A 'TEXTBOOK' FOREIGN POLICY DILEMMA

Interviewee: James A. Baker III, Honorary Chair, Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, February 2, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/africa/egypt-textbook-foreign-policy-dilemma/p23984>

James A. Baker, III, who as secretary of state worked closely with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on several crucial Mideast initiatives, says successive U.S. administrations tried "to get him to agree to reform" without success. Baker says Mubarak was reluctant to allow other political parties to form so he could say, "it's either me or it's the Muslim Brotherhood, and he knew that nobody wanted the Muslim Brotherhood." He says the Mubarak crisis "is a textbook example of why it's hard to conduct foreign policy." Baker added: "We have to consider principles and values, yes: democracy, human rights, freedom. But we also have to consider the national interest, whether or not the particular entity we're dealing with is aligned with the United States or not. And those two considerations meet head-on in this conflict."

President Mubarak just gave a speech where he says he's not going to run for reelection. The question is whether this is enough to satisfy the crowds. You've known Mubarak even before he was president, right?

11140

EGYPT'S REAL DEBATES BEGIN

Expert brief by Robert Danin, Council on Foreign Relations, March 31, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/egypts-real-debates-begin/p24548>

CAIRO – What strikes the visitor to post-Mubarak Egypt is the profound sense of uncertainty about just about everything. Whereas Mubarak's Egypt was consumed by sclerotic stability and the need for order, today's Egypt is rife with ambiguity and self-examination. It is as if Egyptians have just regained consciousness after a long stupor.

They have many, many, questions, and very few answers. Should parliamentary elections precede or follow the presidential vote, and when should these take place? What does the recent constitutional referendum really mean? Where has Omar Suleiman, the once-feared head of intelligence, gone? Does it even matter? These are but a few of the questions now on the table--questions that Egyptians never faced before because they didn't have to. Now they do.

11141

EGYPT'S REVOLUTION AND OUR OWN

By Dr. Steve Frank, This editorial was originally published in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

<http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/egypts-revolution-and-our-own/>

Whatever comes next in Cairo, there are lessons from the American Revolution that should be taken to heart by all who wish the revolution in Egypt to succeed.

11142

EGYPT VS THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Egypt's revolution is more important so far than the American revolution, argues a US historian.

By Sam Haselby, AlJazeera.net, March 8, 2011.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/03/201137124724236938.html>

How does the revolution in Egypt compare with the American Revolution? There is no comparison. It is more impressive and more important. So far.

In the United States, the American Revolution is sacred history. As a result, Americans tend to associate its slogans and symbols with the whole concept of revolution. If the peculiarities of this habit help prevent Americans from recognising the significance of events in Egypt, both countries will pay a price.

11143

FIRST THINGS FIRST

BY DAVID RIEFF / APRIL 18, 2011

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/18/first_things_first?page=0%2C0

Hosni Mubarak deserves to be on trial, but the Egyptian people can't eat transitional justice.

The arrest of Hosni Mubarak and the detention of the fallen Egyptian dictator's sons, Gamal and Alaa, and many of the senior officials of his government are being hailed in Egypt as a watershed moment. Such elation bordering on wonder is entirely appropriate in a country where even public criticism of the Mubarak regime once frequently led to arrest in conditions very different from the relatively benign ones the Mubaraks are now experiencing. (Unlike their opponents, they are not likely to be tortured, as dissidents have routinely been in Egypt.) Only the Muslim Brotherhood, it seems, has shied away from fully joining the general euphoria, with the tone being set by one of its prominent figures, parliamentarian Mohamed Beltagy, who would go no further than to say the arrests are "a step in the right direction."

11144

MUBARAKISM WITHOUT MUBARAK, WHY EGYPT'S MILITARY WILL NOT EMBRACE DEMOCRACY

By Ellis Goldberg, Foreign Affairs, February 11, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67416/ellis-goldberg/mubarakism-without-mubarak>

Now that Mubarak has stepped down, the army may step in as a transitional power, recognizing that it must turn power over to the people quickly. More likely, however, is the return of the somewhat austere military authoritarianism of decades past.

11145

THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, THE ISLAMIC CURRENT, AND PROSPECTS FOR POST-MUBARAK EGYPT: AN EARLY ASSESSMENT

By Robert Satloff, the Washington Institute, April 13, 2011

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC07.php?CID=569>

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Terrorism, HUMINT, Analysis, and Counterintelligence

On April 13, 2011, Washington Institute executive director Robert Satloff testified at a U.S. House of Representatives panel on the Muslim Brotherhood's role in Egypt following the end of the Mubarak regime.

11146

THE NEW EGYPT AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

By Shadi Hamid, Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center, March 8, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0308_egypt_muslim_brotherhood_hamid.aspx

I walked into Tahrir Square for the first time on February 9, two days before President Hosni Mubarak stepped down. It felt more like a carnival than a revolution. But, for all the excitement, many of the protesters were nervous. What if President Mubarak, known for his stubbornness, refused to listen and step down? No one really had a plan for ousting Mubarak. At a Muslim Brotherhood press conference later that day, an American reporter asked if the organization had a strategy. Senior leader Mohamed Morsi, struggling to respond, finally came up with we'll "wait and see."

I asked the group's most prominent "reformist," Abdel Monem abul Futouh, the same question. "This revolution is led by the youth," Futouh explained to me from his office in the Doctors' Union, "and we have to respect that this is their revolution. The Brotherhood youth didn't get permission from the leadership to participate – they did this on their own... And if Mubarak doesn't leave, then they won't leave."

11147

NEW YORK FED WELCOMES STRATEGIC ROADMAP TO SUPPORT GLOBAL EFFORTS IN OTC DERIVATIVES MARKETS

News release, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, April 5, 2011

<http://www.newyorkfed.org/newsevents/news/markets/2011/an110405.html>

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York welcomes the letter from major market participants to the OTC Derivatives Supervisors Group (ODSG) outlining a strategic roadmap that supports ongoing collaborative efforts to bring improvements and risk reduction to global over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives markets. The broad objectives, specific initiatives and supporting commitments in this letter are the foundation of a roadmap for implementation of G-20 objectives.

11148

POSTCOLONIAL TIME DISORDER, EGYPT AND THE MIDDLE EAST, STUCK IN THE PAST

By James D. Le Sueur, Foreign Affairs, February 14, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/67282>

Hosni Mubarak came of age at a time when leaders in the postcolonial world saw a strong, repressive state as necessary to secure national liberty. That era, however, has passed. Will the region's other autocrats now meet similar fates?

11149

THE PRAXIS OF THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

By Mona El-Ghobashy , Middle East Research and information Project, March 28, 2011.

<http://www.merip.org/mer/mer258/praxis-egyptian-revolution>

If there was ever to be a popular uprising against autocratic rule, it should not have come in Egypt. The regime of President Hosni Mubarak was the quintessential case of durable authoritarianism. "Our assessment is that the Egyptian government is stable and is looking for ways to respond to the legitimate needs and interests of the Egyptian people," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 25, 2011. [1] With these words, Clinton gave voice to a common understanding of Egypt under Mubarak. Government officials, pundits and academics, foreign and domestic, thought the regime was resilient -- not because it used brute force or Orwellian propaganda, but because it had shrewdly constructed a simulacrum of politics. Parties, elections and civic associations were allowed but carefully controlled, providing space for just enough participatory politics to keep people busy without threatening regime dominance.

11150

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN A NEW EGYPT

A panel Discussion Transcription.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2011/0324_egypt_civil_society/20110324_egypt_civil_society.pdf

The topic is the Role of Civil Society in a New Egypt, which is a topic I think which is both timely and important.

I think the Jasmine Revolution and the changes in Egypt really boil down to two things, jobs and justice. And I thought, well, one, of course, it's Oxford. It's a clever alliteration. But two, it's also quite a penetrating thought. And I think today as we discuss amongst ourselves and with you the issues of civil society in Egypt --we have representatives from the business community, from civil society organizations, from the youth movements in Egypt -- we need to keep in mind the issues of jobs and justice. And I hope the panelists will speak a bit to the role of civil society in trying to deliver both.

11151

A SURFER'S GUIDE TO US FOREIGN POLICY IN EGYPT, OR HAS OBAMA BEEN SNOOKERED?

By Craig Scott, York University - Osgoode Hall Law School, OpenDemocracy.net, February 2011

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

“Reading the Washington runes. What happened with Mr. Wisner, Egypt lobbyist and Obama's special envoy to Mubarak? Is this an ugly farce, an ethical travesty or a cronyistic scandal?” The purpose of the article is to explore two hypotheses surrounding the sending by President Obama of former US Ambassador to Egypt, Frank Wisner, as Obama's envoy to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt during the period of post-January 25, 2011, revolutionary activity in Egypt. One hypothesis explores the possibility that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's role amounted to an outflanking of President Obama's preferred messaging on Egypt, inter alia, through the recommendation of Wisner as messenger. The second hypothesis is that Clinton and Obama have been in lockstep in arriving at what I refer to as the Suleiman Transition (referencing Omar Suleiman as Mubarak's newly appointed Vice-President). It is recognized that neither hypothesis can be shown to be true on current information at the time of writing, and accordingly argued that Clinton, Obama and Wisner need to answer a series of specified questions about how Clinton and Obama interacted since the start of the January 25, 2011, Egyptian revolution, specifically in relation to the Wisner role.

11152

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: THE POPULAR LITERATURE OF TAHRIR

Protest Signs, Graffiti, and Street Art

Co-curators, Rayya El Zein & Alex Ortiz, April 1, 2011

<http://arteeast.org/pages/literature/641/>

Synopsis

This issue takes as its focus the popular literature of the Egyptian Revolution. Drawing on protest signs, graffiti, and street art in Tahrir to read the culture of resistance particular to the Egyptian Revolution, the curators examine how protesters changed the political narrative through the use of images, memorials, and expressions of daily life. Featuring examples from an extensive gallery of online images culled from the collections of several prominent Egyptian journalists and activists, the online piece is a visual tour of some of the creative production of Egypt's Revolution. A collaborative curation project split between New York City and Cairo, this is ArteEast's first critical look at the cultural production related to recent political developments in the Middle East.

11153

THE SUMMER OF 1787 AND EGYPT'S ITCH FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

By Holly Munson, Constitutions Daily, April 3, 2011.

<http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/the-summer-of-1787-and-egypt%e2%80%99s-itch-for-constitutional-reform/>

Two men debate the validity of Shays' Rebellion; a woman declares the need to provide more educational opportunities for women; a man complains about the vexing proliferation of flies throughout the city. What these conversations capture is the sense of restlessness and anticipation that pervaded Philadelphia, among both the delegates and the people, during the summer of 1787—and it's easy to imagine that Egyptians over the past few weeks have been feeling a comparable sense of anticipation.

11154

UNITING EGYPT'S OPPOSITION, WHO ARE THE PROTESTORS AND WHAT DO THEY WANT?

By Khairi Abaza, Foreign Affairs, February 9, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/67213>

Egypt's various reform factions share a belief in an orderly transition to representative government but have wildly divergent political ideologies. How will these groups coexist in the post-Mubarak era?

11155

THE U.S.-EGYPTIAN BREAKUP, WASHINGTON'S LIMITED OPTIONS IN CAIRO

By Steven A. Cook, Foreign Affairs, February, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67347/steven-a-cook/the-us-egyptian-breakup>

With the political era of Hosni Mubarak coming to an end, is the strategic relationship between Cairo and Washington similarly finished? The Obama administration must scale back its ambitions to affect change in Cairo.

With Hosni Mubarak's announcement yesterday that he would not seek a new term as president, the Mubarak era in Egypt came to an ignominious end. Although the Egyptian military may yet find a way to allow for a relatively graceful exit, Mubarak's historical legacy is sure to be colored by the very factors that led to his downfall: political alienation, economic dislocation, corruption, and the precipitous decline in Egypt's regional influence. After the chaos of this past week, not even his claim to have brought stability to Egypt will survive.

11156

U.S. WINS NO FRIENDS, END OF TREATY WITH ISRAEL SOUGHT Egyptians Embrace Revolt Leaders, Religious Parties and Military, As Well

By Pew Global Project, Released: April 25, 2011

<http://pewglobal.org/2011/04/25/egyptians-embrace-revolt-leaders-religious-parties-and-military-as-well/>

<http://pewglobal.org/files/2011/04/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Egypt-Report-FINAL-April-25-2011.pdf>

Overview

Egyptians of all ages, from all walks of life, and parts of the country continue to celebrate the dramatic political changes their nation has undergone. Overwhelmingly, they say it is good that former president Hosni Mubarak is gone. Nearly two-in-three are satisfied with the way things are going in Egypt, and most are optimistic about their country's future.

11157

WHY EGYPT HAS TO BE THE U.S. PRIORITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Robert Kagan, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, The Washington Post, March 7, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0307_egypt_kagan.aspx

With the horrific carnage in Libya, the flames of revolution burning in Yemen and Bahrain, and protests for political change in Jordan and Morocco, there's a danger that the United States and Europe may lose sight of what still has to be our highest priority in the region: helping the people of Egypt complete their transition to democracy and a new chance at prosperity.

Why is Egypt so important? Because it is the heart of the Arab world. It was the birthplace of pan-Arabism under Gamal Nasser, the linchpin of Middle East peace under Anwar Sadat. With more than 80 million people - as many as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria combined - it has a large and vigorous civil society, feisty, independent media, a broad array of political forces, and a well-respected judiciary. If Egypt can make the transition to democracy, it will lead the way to a new era for the Arab world. If Cairo falls back to dictatorship of one variety or another, it is unlikely the rest of the region will move on without it. The Arab Spring will live or die in Egypt.

11158

WILL ENTHUSIASM FOR DEMOCRACY ENDURE IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE?

By James Bell, Pew Research Center, March 8, 2011

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1918/enthusiasm-for-democracy-in-egypt-tunisia-fragile-eastern-europe-experience-shows>

The speed at which pro-democracy movements have redefined the political landscape in countries such as Tunisia and Egypt is impressive. It harkens back to an equally dramatic wave of democratization that took place two decades ago with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet empire and its satellites. While the parallels between former Soviet bloc countries and Middle Eastern nations should not be overdrawn, the experience of Eastern Europe is a useful reminder that public enthusiasm for democracy is not guaranteed as political change extends over years and decades.

11159

YOUTH AND THE REVOLUTION IN EGYPT ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY

By Selim H. Shahine, Anthropology Today, Volume 27, Issue 2, April 2011, Pages: 1-3,

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2011.00792.x/abstract>

This editorial is based on a paper I presented to the 'Speaking out on Egypt' panel organized by the Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies and the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine, on 17 February 2011. I dedicate it to

those who lost their lives or were wounded in Egypt's 25 January revolution. I thank Victoria Bernal and ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY for comments on earlier drafts of this editorial, and I am grateful to Tom Boellstorff and Karen Leonard for their encouragement.

The 2011 popular uprising that led to the overthrow of the Egyptian regime was initiated by groups of engaged 'internet youth'. In this editorial I offer some personal reflections on the shift in political consciousness among Egypt's urban middle-class youth, and on the discourse about generations that has unified Egyptians during the momentous events currently sweeping the Arab world. Whereas for members of my generation, the 'stability' of the Egyptian regime connoted comforts and opportunities, for today's Egyptian youth, it had come to signify no prospects for the future.

DEMOCRACY & RULE OF LAW

11160

2010 COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES

By U.S. Dept of State, April 2011.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/index.htm>

Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, April 8, 2011, are at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/04/160363.htm> and a briefing by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael H. Posner at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, is at <http://fpc.state.gov/160395.htm>

In recent months, we have been particularly inspired by the courage and determination of the activists in the Middle East and North Africa and in other repressive societies who have demanded peaceful democratic change and respect for their universal human rights. The United States will stand with those who seek to advance the causes of democracy and human rights wherever they may live, and we will stand with those who exercise their fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly in a peaceful way, whether in person, in print, or in pixels on the internet. This report usually generates a great deal of interest among journalists, lawmakers, nongovernmental organizations, and of course, other governments, and I hope it will again this year.

As part of our mission to update statecraft for the 21st century, today I'm also pleased to announce the launch of our new website, humanrights.gov. This site will offer one-stop shopping for information about global human rights from across the United States Government. It will pull together reports, statements, and current updates from around the world. It will be searchable and it will be safe. You won't need to register to use it. We hope this will make it easier for citizens, scholars, NGOs, and international organizations to find the information they need to hold governments accountable.

11161

A Declining Constituency: Unions and the Democratic Party

By Alan I. Abramowitz, Sabato's Crystal Ball, April 7, 2011

<http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/aia2011040701/>

Recent events in Wisconsin and a number of other states have focused attention on the role played by labor unions in contemporary American politics. As Scott Walker and other conservative Republican governors have sought to reduce the power of public employee unions in their states by weakening collective bargaining rights, the unions and their supporters have fought back with demonstrations and efforts to recall Republican elected officials who have supported these policies.

THE DILEMMA OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

Backgrounder by Jayshree Bajoria, Council on Foreign Relations, updated March 14, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/human-rights/dilemma-humanitarian-intervention/p16524>

The crackdown by Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi on mass anti-regime protests in early 2011 resulted in strong condemnation by the international community. In a historic move, the UN Security Council invoked the principle of "responsibility to protect" and adopted Resolution 1973, endorsing a no-fly zone over Libya and authorizing member states to "take all necessary measures" to protect civilians under attack from Qaddafi's government. As a result, some Western countries, including the United States, began air strikes over Libya, which spurred a debate on whether forced intervention was warranted. Countries like Russia, China, Brazil, and India abstained from voting on the UN resolution, spotlighting the sensitive nature of the issue. Some states in Asia and Africa, especially former colonies, have long seen intervention of any kind as a threat to their sovereignty. This was evident in the divide that followed a devastating cyclone in Myanmar in May 2008. There have been some instances in the recent past where countries have opened up to outside aid in the aftermath of natural disasters, but sovereignty remains a sticking point.

ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE POLICING

By e-Journal USA, April 2011 e-Journal USA is an online publication of the U.S. Dept of State, Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP).

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/publications/Ethical%20Policing_041311.pdf

As enforcers of the law, police play a crucial role in upholding democracy. In democratic societies, citizens grant increased authority to police in order to live in a safe community. They give police the power to detain, search, arrest citizens, and lawfully use physical force when situations dictate. In return, police departments must ensure that police officers adhere to high ethical standards. When they don't, the reciprocal trust between citizenry and police is disrupted, undermining the tacit social contract that is the basis of democracy.

This issue of eJournal USA examines the ways in which citizens and police strive to sustain the social contract.

ELECTIONS: InfoUSA

http://infousa.state.gov/government/govt_elections.html

Overviews

- [The Electoral Process](#)
Presented in question/answer format, this section addresses the nomination and election of the President, Senators, and Representatives, qualifications for voting, the administration of elections, and the funding of campaigns.
- [Elections 2008: The Candidates](#)
An overview of the 2008 U.S. Presidential election.
[\[HTML Version\]](#)
- [U.S. Federal Election Commission](#)
Explanation of the role and activities of the U.S. Federal Election Commission.
- [More Than Elections: How Democracies Transfer Power](#)
Democracy requires more than holding elections. Healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build. This eJournal USA explores the contours of civil society and political legitimacy within which peaceful transitions of power can occur.
[\[HTML Version\]](#)
- [Congressional Authority to Standardize National Election Procedures](#)
Report on the constitutional authority and limitations relevant to attempts by Congress to standardize election procedures.
- [Elections: A Framework for Evaluating Reform Proposals](#)
This section explains the variability in election administration, discusses the challenges to effective electoral reform, and presents criteria for assessing reform.
- [Elections Reform: Overview and Issues](#)
This report discusses the issues surrounding elections reform.
- [Presidential Elections in the United States: A Primer](#)
This report describes the four stages of the presidential election process.

Electoral College

- [The Electoral College](#)
This 2008 eJournal will improve your understanding of the historical reasons for the Electoral College system and how it functions.
[\[HTML Version\]](#)

- [The American Electoral College](#)
Explains the process of the Electoral College in its entirety.
- [The Electoral College: How It Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections](#)
This CRS report details workings of the Electoral College.
- [A Procedural Guide to the Electoral College](#)
A fundamental breakdown of the history and current operations of the Electoral College.

Campaign Finance

- [Campaign Finance: An Overview](#)
This CRS report provides a general summary of campaign finance and the issues surrounding it, including legislation from the 108th and 109th Congresses.
- [Campaign Finance](#)
This CRS report provides a general summary of campaign finance and the issues surrounding it, including legislation from the 108th and 109th Congresses.
- [Campaign Finance Reform: Regulating Political Communications on the Internet](#)
This CRS report reviews the issues involved with defining "election activity" on the Internet and what can be regulated.
- [Campaign Finance: Legislative Developments and Policy Issues in the 110th Congress](#)
This 2008 CRS Report provides an overview of major legislative and policy developments related to campaign finance during the 110th Congress.

Election Procedures and Technologies

- [The Administrative Structure of State Election Offices](#)
A general reference guide outlining the unique systems used to administer elections in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.
- [Voting Systems Performance and Test Standards: An Overview](#)
Overview of a Voting Systems Standards report, which seeks to ensure the accuracy, reliability and dependability of certified election equipment.
- [Internet Voting: Issues and Legislation](#)
This is a CRS report on voting via the Internet.
- [The Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machine \(DRE\) Controversy: FAQs and Misperceptions](#)
Report on voting systems in the U.S. and the controversy surrounding electronic voting machines.

THE MARCH FOR FREEDOM IN LIBYA, MIDDLE EAST UNREST, MIDDLE EAST, DEMOCRACY PROMOTION

By Ibrahim Sharqieh, Brookings Doha Center , February 22, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0222_libya_sharqieh.aspx

The people of Libya are closer than ever to freedom from the 42-year-long rule of the world's longest serving leader in the Arab world, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. Though notorious for severely repressing opposition movements, the Libyan regime is no longer in a position to exercise the level of control it has enjoyed over the past four decades, as Libyans no longer fear their government and are now closer than ever to changing it. The Libyan people's direct confrontation with the Qaddafi dictatorship highlights the many factors that have brought them closer than ever to their long-awaited goal.

One of the main contributors to unrest in the country lies in Libya's economic sector. Libya is one of the richest Arab nations in terms of its natural resources particularly oil. The country exports approximately 1.5 million barrels per day, yet approximately one-third of Libyans live at or below the poverty line. The Libyan people tend to blame this inconsistency on their government's rampant corruption.

TEA PARTY: BETTER KNOWN, LESS POPULAR

By Pew Research Center, April 8, 2011

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1956/tea-party-declining-popularity-democrats-independents-moderate-republicans>

As the Tea Party has evolved from a grassroots movement to become a major force on Capitol Hill, public views of the Tea Party have grown more negative. Slightly more disagree with the Tea Party than agree with the movement -- a reversal in public evaluations from a year ago.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 30-April 3, among 1,507 adults, finds that 29% say they disagree with the Tea Party, while fewer (22%) agree; nearly half (49%) say they do not have an opinion either way. Since last March, the percentage saying they disagree with the movement has grown 15 points while the percentage saying they agree with the Tea Party has remained mostly unchanged (24% March 2010, 22% April 2011.).

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CAMPAIGN 2012

By AEI Political Report, April 2011

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/PoliticalReportApril2011.pdf>

President Obama officially launched his 2012 re-election bid this week. His approval rating is hovering around 50 percent in most polls and about that many say he deserves to be re-elected or that they would like to see him re-elected.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

11168

THE ART OF PLEASING

By Paul Hond, Columbia Magazine, Winter 2010-2011, pp. 34-38.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

Fall for Dance is the enormously popular annual dance festival in New York City that Arlene Shuler launched in 2004, a year after she was appointed City Center's president and CEO. The 2010 event featured the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Bill T. Jones, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and the San Francisco Ballet, as well as troupes from Brazil, Taiwan, and France. One of the objectives of Fall for Dance is to bring new audiences to dance. For a city-owned venue like City Center, which must compete with the deluxe, 16-acre performing arts megaplex Lincoln Center ten blocks up Broadway, the cultivation of new audiences is both a moral and economic imperative. Shuler points to a history of shifting fortunes: In 1964, City Center's core companies, City Ballet and City Opera, left their birthplace at West 55th Street for the paved deserts and soaring glass of the new Lincoln Center. In the past seven years, more than 140 dance companies have appeared at Fall for Dance.

11169

THE BASIC ECONOMIC SECURITY TABLES FOR THE UNITED STATES

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), April 1, 2011. (49 pages)

<http://www.wowonline.org/documents/BESTIndexforTheUnitedStates2010.pdf>

New Report Defines Economic Security, Shows Families Struggling to Reach American Dream.

News release, <http://www.wowonline.org/documents/PressReleaseBESTReport.pdf>

The Basic Economic Security Tables™ Index (BEST) is a measure of the basic needs and assets workers require for economic security throughout a lifetime and across generations.

The BEST follows on a long history of research defining families' spending and income needs, but reflects a modern economy and contemporary understanding of how families achieve financial stability. The BEST addresses the several pieces of the larger basic economic security picture—basic needs, savings and employment-based benefits—and allows a broad and complete view of worker needs and families' prospects for achieving the economic security so critical to their futures and to their communities.

The Basic Economic Security Tables™ for the United States report, includes the comprehensive BEST Index that calculates the monthly income necessary for families to cover their basic expenses, including childcare, housing, health care, transportation, savings and retirement.

11170

THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE UNITED STATES

By Laura B. Shrestha and Elayne J. Heisler, Congressional Research Service updated March 31, 2011, 36 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/161342.pdf>

The United States, the third most populous country globally, accounts for about 4.5% of the world's population. The U.S. population—currently estimated at 308.7 million persons—has more than doubled since its 1950 level of 152.3 million. More than just being double in size, the population has become qualitatively different from what it was in 1950. As noted by the Population Reference Bureau, “The U.S. is getting bigger, older, and more diverse.” The objective of this report is to highlight some of the demographic changes that have already occurred since 1950 and to illustrate how these and future trends will reshape the nation in the decades to come (through 2050).

11171

THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA'S RACIAL DIVERSITY: 2010 CENSUS, DEMOGRAPHICS, RACE, ETHNICITY, MIGRATION

Q&A with William H. Frey, Brookings Institution, March 25, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/multimedia/video/2011/0325_demographics_frey.aspx

New census data shows a wave of African-Americans leaving the cities for the suburbs, an aging of the white population and a surge in multiracial families. America will have a new look in the not too distant future.

11172

THE INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY: CHANGING THE DNA OF HIGHER EDUCATION

By Henry J. Eyring and Clayton M. Christensen, American Council on Education, February 2011, 3 pages. (Based on a forthcoming book)

http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Programs_and_Services&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=40357

See also

http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Programs_and_Services&ContentID=40366

Improving productivity in higher education is essential to strengthening the nation and positioning it to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. Without sufficiently increasing student access, enrollment, and attainment in our higher education institutions, the United States risks being surpassed by other nations, becoming less competitive, and failing to tap the full potential of its citizenry. According to the American Council on Education's (ACE) Minorities in Higher Education 2010 Status Report, the tradition of young adults in the United States attaining higher levels of education relative to prior generations has stalled and for some racial and ethnic groups, the percentage of young adults with some type of postsecondary degree has actually fallen.

11173

METROPOLITAN AREAS AND THE NEXT ECONOMY: A 50-STATE ANALYSIS

By Brookings Institution, February 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/metro/50_states.aspx

The economic future for states hinges largely on the performance of their metropolitan economies, which generate the bulk of economic output in 47 of 50 states. A new Metropolitan Policy Program analysis reveals how metro areas within each state are positioned to help propel the next wave of U.S. economic growth.

11174

NEXUS INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Fact sheet, U.S. Dept of State, March 21, 2011

<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/2011/158624.htm>

The NEXUS Innovation Initiative will include a series of public-private sector partnerships that will link businesses, educators, scientists, NGOs, and local communities to develop new ideas, foster synergies, and apply solutions to improve people's daily lives and increase shared prosperity. U.S. Embassies will work with their contacts in each country in the region to develop NEXUS Innovation strategies that leverage the reach of U.S. and regional governments along with the resources of the private sector to create jobs and promote education, science, and entrepreneurship as pathways to shared social and economic opportunity. The Initiative has the potential to reach more than 50,000 people directly and potentially 100,000 more through online and virtual mentoring programs. The secondary impact both in the region and in the United States will also be significant, through networks associated with the Initiative. It will form the basis for investment, innovation and entrepreneurship – fulfilling the President's 2009 promise at the Summit of the Americas.

11175

TRANSLATION STUDIES

By Kristine J. Anderson, Choice, vol. 48, no. 6, February 2011, pp. 1027-1036.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

The author, a professor of library science at Purdue University, believes that, as an area of study, translation studies covers a vast and sprawling terrain. It is now populated by scholars who identify themselves with other disciplines, such as linguistics, anthropology, literature. In this essay, translation refers to the transfer of a statement or a text from one language to another, as distinguished from "translations" within the same language, for example, between professional jargons or between texts from different time periods, and from "translations" from one medium to another, such as works to film. Throughout the 1990s, translation studies experienced a phenomenal growth that has continued into the new millennium.

WOULD MORE EDUCATION REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND INCOME INEQUALITY?

By Daniel Indiviglio, Atlantic Monthly, January 17, 2011.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/01/would-more-education-reduce-unemployment-and-income-inequality/69632/>

Would more education reduce unemployment and income inequality in the United States? The author, associate editor at Atlantic and former investment banker, does not agree; he believes that the unemployment problem is cyclical, not structural. The current situation is simply that there aren't enough job openings; but most of today's unemployed will eventually find jobs with their current skills once the economy recovers. As for wage inequality, most of that can be attributed to a small handful of people who have become wealthy, thanks to modern communications, marketing and technology. But for everyone else, incomes have not changed much. Education has little to do with this, as a college degree, or even an advanced degree, does not guarantee a high income.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & TRADE ISSUES

11177

2011 NATIONAL TRADE ESTIMATE REPORT ON FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS

By Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), March 2011.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/reports-and-publications/2011-0>

The 2011 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE) is the twenty-sixth in an annual series that surveys significant foreign barriers to U.S. exports. This document is a companion piece to the President's Trade Policy Agenda published in March. The issuance of the NTE Report continues the elaboration of an enforcement strategy, utilizing this report, among other tools, in that strategy.

11178

2011 REPORT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

By Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, March 2011.

<http://www.ustr.gov/sites/default/files/TBT%20Report%20Mar%2025%20Master%20Draft%20Final%20pdf%20-%20Adobe%20Acrobat%20Pro.pdf>

There is a news release, March 30, 2011, at <http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/fact-sheets/2011/keeping-markets-open-successes-reducing-technical-barriers-am>

This year the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) publishes its second annual Report on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Report). This report was created to respond to the concerns of U.S. companies, farmers, ranchers and manufacturers, which increasingly encounter non-tariff trade barriers in the form of product standards, testing requirements, and other technical requirements as they seek to sell products and services around the world. As tariff barriers to industrial and agricultural trade have fallen, standards-related measures of this kind have emerged as a primary concern.

11179

2011 REPORT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

By Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, March 2011

<http://www.ustr.gov/sites/default/files/SPS%20Report%20Master%20Final%20Draft%20March%2025.pdf>

This year the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) publishes its second annual Report on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Report). This report was created to respond to the concerns of U.S. farmers, ranchers, producers, and workers who are running into SPS trade barriers as they seek to export high-quality American agricultural products around the world. SPS measures are rules and procedures that governments use to ensure that foods and beverages are safe to consume and to protect animals and plants from pests and diseases.

ARE SMALL BUSINESSES THE BIGGEST PRODUCERS OF JOBS?

By Kevin L. Kliesen and Julia S. Maues, Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, *The Regional Economist*, April 2011

<http://stlouisfed.org/publications/re/articles/?id=2087>

It is often claimed that small firms are responsible for a disproportionately large share of new jobs that are created in the U.S. economy. If true, this speaks well of the entrepreneurial spirit of the U.S. economy, whereby newcomers introduce new ideas or production processes that lead to new and improved products or services. The rise of global companies like Wal-Mart, Microsoft and Google from small beginnings is a testament to the importance of small businesses and the economic forces they sometimes unleash. However, the claim that small businesses generate a large percentage of new jobs must be evaluated carefully. First, there isn't a universal agreement on the definition of a small business. Furthermore, the failure rates of small business are quite high. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only about half of the businesses that opened in 1994 were still operating five years later. Thus, when one accounts for job destruction, small businesses appear to account for a significantly smaller share of net new jobs created in the private sector than many people might believe.

BUBBLES AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Paper by Narayana Kocherlakota, president, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis presented in Marseilles, March 25, 2011, 24 pages.

http://www.minneapolisfed.org/news_events/pres/speech_display.cfm?id=4640

The purpose of this paper is to investigate how the collapse of a bubble affects the long-run behavior of unemployment in a simple theoretical framework. I blend two canonical models together: the overlapping generations model of Samuelson (1958) and the Diamond-Mortensen-Pissarides (DMP) model of unemployment. A key feature of my modeling approach is that I do not require equilibrium outcomes to satisfy the job creation condition of the DMP model. In this loose sense, and as in Farmer (2011), output is “demand determined”.

I allow for the possibility of a bubble in the price of an asset in fixed supply (that I term land). I show that the unemployment rate is the same in an equilibrium with a bubble as it is in an equilibrium without a bubble, as long as the interest rate is sufficiently low in the latter. In this sense, labor market outcomes are unaffected by a bubble collapse, as long as monetary policy is sufficiently accommodative.

BANK LENDING

By Matthew Koepke and James B. Thomson, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Economic Trends, March 23, 2011

<http://www.clevelandfed.org/research/trends/2011/0411/01banfin.cfm>

It has been nearly two years since the National Bureau of Economic Research called an end to the recession, but concerns still remain about the strength of the recovery in bank lending. The most recent data from the FDIC suggest that while some measures of credit flow are improving, other measures continue to show weakness.

According to the FDIC, assets of all FDIC-insured institutions grew at an average rate of 8.1 percent from 2000 to 2008, with annual growth ranging from 5.4 percent in 2001 to 11.4 percent 2004. The banking system recorded two strong years of asset growth in 2006 and 2007, increasing 9.0 and 9.9 percent in those years before slowing to 6.2 percent growth in 2008. In 2009, bank assets of FDIC-insured institutions declined 5.4 percent to \$13.1 trillion. Since then, asset growth has ticked up in 2010 to 1.8 percent, but it remains well below the average growth rate of 8.1 percent seen from 2000 to 2008.

THE BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC WORKERS

By Robert Pollin, Thompson, Jeffrey The Nation, February 16, 2011.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/158647/betrayal-public-workers>

The Great Recession and its aftermath could bring even more severe assaults on the living standards and basic rights of ordinary Americans, write the authors. A wide swath of elected officials and opinion leaders have singled out public-sector unions as deadweight burdens sapping the economy's vitality, despite the fact that the recession was caused by Wall Street risk-taking, not public union payrolls, they say. The recession has severely hurt the coffers of local governments, they note, but rather than gouging state and local government employees, most of whom are not eligible for Social Security, states and municipalities need to raise taxes on the wealthy households most able to pay. They should also broaden their sources of tax revenue by taxing services such as payments to lawyers, and taxing items purchased over the Internet. The authors argue that state and local governments also have to stop giving out large tax breaks to corporations as inducements to locate there. They predict that if states declare bankruptcy they will break their obligations to employees, vendors, pensioners and even bondholders, which will undermine the basic foundations of the U.S. economy.

11184

DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC WELL-BEING: FLUCTUATIONS IN THE U.S. INCOME DISTRIBUTION, 2004-2007

By Census Bureau, March 2011, 36 pages.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p70-124.pdf>

Between 2004 and 2007, the (real) median household income in the United States increased 3.2 percent, as measured by data available from the Current Population Survey's (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). This statistic compares a cross-section of households in 2004 with another crosssection of households in 2007, but does not provide a picture of what happened to the same households over time. Medians, like those available from the CPS-ASEC, can conceal fluctuations in annual household income. In order to examine changes in the annual (real) income of the same households between 2004 and 2007, this report uses the longitudinal data available from the 2004 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

Income quintiles were constructed for 2004 and 2007 using data collected in the 2004 SIPP panel (Text Box: Constructing Income Quintiles). Longitudinal data make it possible to identify and analyze factors that may contribute to an increase or a decrease in household income .

11185

ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

CURRENT BASIC UNITED STATES ECONOMIC STATISTICS

<http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

1. [Unemployment Rate \(1\)](#)
2. [Change in Payroll Employment \(2\)](#)
3. [Average Hourly Earnings \(3\)](#)
4. [Consumer Price Index \(4\)](#)
5. [Producer Price Index \(5\)](#)
6. [U.S. Import Price Index \(6\)](#)

11186

EFFECTS OF CRUDE OIL SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS: HOW LONG CAN THEY LAST?

By Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy, Today in Energy, March 30, 2011

<http://eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=730>

Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa region have unsettled an already tightening oil market, leaving market participants to evaluate and cope with the possible short- and long-term effects of both current and potential supply disruptions. While events that cause oil disruptions may be transitory, their impact on oil production levels can persist for an extended period. Past experience suggests that the absence of internal discord and external conflicts or sanctions are important conditions for a recovery in production.

This edition of *Today in Energy* reviews the gross production impacts of three past disruptions: the Iranian revolution of 1978-1979, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and the Venezuelan strike in 2002. Historically, the disrupted volumes are initially replaced mainly with the drawdown of inventories and then with increased production from other countries that have the capacity to increase output quickly. When new production arrives to help replace lost supplies, we can lose sight of the length of the loss from the disruption and subsequent events.

11187

ENDGAME: THE DENOUEMENT OF EXPONENTIALS

By Morgan, Tim et al. Tullett Prebon Strategy Insights, no. 6, November 2010, 80pp.

http://www.tullettprebon.com/Documents/strategyinsights/tp0610d_tpsi_006.pdf

The authors write that, with the Western economies burdened with unprecedented amounts of debt, the economic debate “has become polarized between debt-cutters and fiscal stimulators.” They argue that this debate misses the point; the free-market system is dead in the water, having been discredited by the financial collapse of 2008-2009. They believe that the “intellectual high ground is up for grabs” for the first time in decades; the solution could be something along the lines of what they term “exponential economics”. Such an analysis would identify the key drivers of the economy. First, it would recognize that the modern economy could not exist without the extraneous fossil and nuclear energy that has allowed the earth to support a population of seven billion people. Second, it would acknowledge that the financial system that is superimposed on the global economy has become dangerously large and overextended, which was not fully appreciated until now. They believe that the recent financial crisis represents a tipping point, where the decreasing energy returns of lower-quality energy sources will no longer support the global economy. They argue that policymakers are ill-equipped to deal with this process, which will make “unprecedented social and economic change inevitable.”

11188

THE GREAT RECESSION’S EFFECT ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

By Scott Shane, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Economic Commentary, March 24, 2011

<http://www.clevelandfed.org/research/commentary/2011/2011-04.cfm>

Though the recent recession was the worst downturn since the Great Depression, some observers argue that one silver lining is an upswing in entrepreneurship. Recessions, they claim, provide laid-off workers with the motivation to start their own businesses, and a recent study suggests that in 2009 the number people becoming self employed spiked to its highest level in more than a decade. Unfortunately, a careful look at multiple sources of data shows that the Great Recession was actually a time of considerable decline in entrepreneurial activity in the United States.

11189

HOUSEHOLD BALANCE SHEETS AND THE RECOVERY

By Timothy Bianco and Filippo Occhino, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Economic Commentary, March 24, 2011

<http://www.clevelandfed.org/research/commentary/2011/2011-05.cfm>

Falling home and financial asset prices have combined to weaken the average household's balance sheet, and this has helped to slow down the current recovery. We examine the role that household balance sheets have typically played in postwar business cycles and assess their importance in explaining why some recoveries, including the current one, have been weaker than others.

11190

INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS 2010

World Trade Organization (WTO), 2011, 254 pages.

http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2010_e/its10_toc_e.htm

Each chapter is introduced by a highlights section that identifies the most salient trends in the data and illustrates them with numerous charts and maps. There is also a methodological chapter that explains essential concepts and definitions used in compiling the statistics, and an appendix with detailed data on trade by region up to 2009.

International Trade Statistics 2010 continues to serve as an invaluable reference for researchers, policy makers, and anyone interested in international trade.

11191

MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS: U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS FY2000-FY2011

By Rebecca M. Nelson, Congressional Research Service, March 11, 2011, 12 pages.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS20792.pdf>

This report shows in tabular form how much the Administration has requested and how much Congress has appropriated for U.S. payments to the multilateral development banks (MDBs) since 2000. It also provides a brief description of the MDBs and the ways they fund their operations. It will be updated periodically as annual appropriation figures are known. The title of this report will also change annually, as new yearly appropriation figures are added. As shown in the source note for Tables 2, 3, and 4, the final appropriation figures for FY2011 have not yet been determined. The Treasury Department made one payment to the African Development Fund (AfDF), however, because the organization was facing serious financial constraints and the

THE NATURAL DEBT CRISIS: LEARNING TO LIVE WITHIN OUR PLANET'S MEANS

By Bryan Walsh, *Time*, February 22, 2011.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2052930,00.html>

Ask any American politician, the author writes, what is the biggest problem facing the U.S., and they will invariably say that it is our staggering debt, which will cripple the economy and consign future generations to poverty. What amazes Walsh is that the same politicians who are so worried about financial debt, and want steep spending cuts to save our future, dismiss the idea of a natural debt crisis – a crisis of climate, environment and resources caused by too many people, too much consumption, pollution and carbon dioxide. Walsh notes that the “terms we use to describe our two debts are similar, as the language used in finance bleeds over into ecology;” conservationists talk about “natural capital”, such as forests, clean air and water, fish, soil and biodiversity, without which there would be no life, let alone business. Says Walsh, if we live within our means, as conservatives might say, our natural capital would sustain us, like a bank account generating interest, “but we’re not living within our means – not even close.” Whether we are talking about the financial crisis or the natural crisis, “either way, we’re broke – and it’s time we acted like it.”

A REVISED AND EXPANDED FOOD DOLLAR SERIES: A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR FOOD COSTS

By Patrick Canning, *Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept of Agriculture*, February 2011, 49 pages.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR114/ERR114.pdf>

A new ERS food dollar series measures annual expenditures on domestically produced food by individuals living in the United States and provides a detailed answer to the question

“For what do our food dollars pay?” This new data product replaces the old marketing bill series, which was discontinued due to measurement problems and limited scope. The new food dollar series is composed of three primary series, shedding light on different aspects of evolving supply chain relationships. The marketing bill series, like the old marketing bill series, identifies the distribution of the food dollar between farm and marketing shares.

The industry group series identifies the distribution of the food dollar among 10 distinct food supply chain industry groups. The primary factor series identifies the distribution of the food dollar in terms of U.S. worker salaries and benefits, rents to food industry property owners, taxes, and imports. To provide even more information about modern food supply chains, each of the three primary series is further disaggregated by commodity groupings (food/food and beverage), expenditure categories (total, food at home, food away from home), and two dollar denominations (nominal, real). The input-output methodology behind the new food dollar series and comparisons with the old marketing bill series are presented. Several key findings of the new series are highlighted and discussed.

TARP

Address by U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Timothy G. Massad, March 29, 2011

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1118.aspx>

I have been working on TARP since December 2008—first, briefly, as a special advisor to the Congressional Oversight Panel, and then at the Department of the Treasury since the spring of 2009. I joined Treasury as the Chief Counsel for the program and later became the Acting Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability, which means I oversee the program.

Today I intend to discuss three things. First, why was TARP necessary? In answering this I will be brief, because we do not have time to discuss in detail the causes of the crisis or the reasons why the additional resources and tools provided by TARP were necessary, but I do want to give you an overview of those issues.

Second, what exactly were the actions taken under TARP? Here I will go into a bit more detail.

And third, how do we evaluate whether TARP worked? I will give you a preview to this answer now, by posing four more questions for you to think about as I discuss what we did. In evaluating whether TARP, or any other response to a financial crisis, was successful, one might ask:

First, has financial stability been restored so that the financial system is able to support rather than impede economic growth?

Second, how quickly is the financial system able to replace government investments with private capital?

Third, what was the direct financial cost of the interventions to taxpayers?

And fourth, is the financial system stronger today than it was immediately prior to the crisis?

THE TROUBLE WITH THE ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT

By Michael Geist, *SAIS Review of International Affairs*, vol. 30, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2010, pp. 137-147.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/sais_review/summary/v030/30.2.geist.html

The author, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law, at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, notes that since the U.S., the EU, Japan, Canada, and a handful of other countries announced their participation in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations in October 2007, the agreement has been dogged by controversy. At the same time, it has captured the attention of trade and policy watchers, as it heralded the prospect of circumventing multilateral institutions such as the World Intellectual Property Organization and used hot-button issues like counterfeiting to advance the global intellectual property enforcement agenda. This essay examines the primary concerns associated with ACTA. First, the author examines the secrecy and lack of transparency; second, the substance of the agreement is reviewed by highlighting the most

contentious issues; third, the global political implications of ACTA are discussed. While ACTA is frequently presented as little more than a standard trade agreement, the increasing discomfort among developing countries, as well as the long-term implications for multilateral institutions, provides powerful signals that the broader effects should not be underestimated.

11196

THE RESURRECTION

By Michael Hirsch, National Journal, March 26, 2011.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/vikram-pandit-s-citigroup-growing-out-of-washington-s-control--20110328?page=1>

In this profile of Citigroup and its CEO Vikram Pandit, the author notes that the resurgent “too big to fail” Wall Street banks are growing bigger and more global than before, earning more of their profits overseas and pushing out or buying up smaller competitors. Hirsch notes that many of the regulatory reforms enacted after the 2008-2009 financial crash have yet to take effect; regulators abroad agree even less on a common strategy than do those in Washington. He notes that the underlying instabilities that resulted in the global crisis have remained unresolved. As these giant financial institutions expand their global reach, Hirsch warns that the U.S. government may be put in the position of becoming the guarantor of last resort for banks over which it has even less control and oversight than previously.

11197

SURVEYING THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORM: CHANGES IN FAMILY FINANCES FROM 2007 TO 2009

Staff working paper by Jesse Bricker and others, U.S. Federal Reserve, March 2011, 38 pages.

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/feds/2011/201117/201117pap.pdf>

This paper provides the first look at the changes in families’ finances captured in the 2007–2009 SCF panel. The panel data allow us to examine how the effects of changes in the value of specific types of assets and debts and other economic disturbances played out at the household level. The data also allow us to consider the potential longer-term consequences of the financial crisis on families’ decisions and expectations.

SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN AFRICA

By Helene Gallis, Worldwatch, Vol. 23, No. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 12-17.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

Development efforts in developing nations need to take a decidedly different tack than in the past, one this author calls “sustainable entrepreneurship.” Through the decades of development assistance, there are many examples of projects envisioned by donors that could not be sustained over the long term with local resources and skills. Some donor groups are now recognizing the need for development ideas to percolate from the ground up, but they also want to redefine what “entrepreneurship” means in these countries. Accumulation of wealth is implied in the Western definition of that term, but advocates of this new trend hope that future entrepreneurs will consider social environmental, and economic factors in equal measure, as they conceive development projects. The author cites examples of initiatives launched by this new breed of developing world entrepreneurs, notably partners in a Nigerian enterprise who are developing the first environmentally sustainable high-rise building on the Lagos waterfront. The trend is also unfolding on the national scale, Gallis reports, citing a Rwandan effort to establish itself as a regional hub for information and communications technologies, even while the nation still works to achieve basic developmental standards for availability of clean water and electricity.

WHY “FIXING” CHINA’S CURRENCY IS NO QUICK FIX

By Brett W. Fawley and Luciana Juvenal., Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, The Regional Economist, April 2011

<http://stlouisfed.org/publications/re/articles/?id=2094>

On net, the U.S. economy added zero jobs over the past decade: Eight million jobs gained from 2003-07 were countered with eight million jobs lost from 2008-09. The recent recession, despite its severity, cannot shoulder all blame for this outcome. Average job growth during the 2003-07 expansion was 60 percent slower than average job growth over previous economic expansions following World War II.

The sluggish growth was likely driven by a combination of internal factors (increased productivity) and external factors (job outsourcing and large sustained trade imbalances). For example, Figure 1 shows that from 1994 to 2006 the U.S. multilateral trade deficit in goods grew from 2.5 to 6.5 percent of GDP. To the extent that this trend reflects diminished U.S. competitiveness in international goods markets, some U.S. manufacturing jobs may have been lost to foreign competitors.

GLOBAL & ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

11200

CLIMATE CHANGE POSES MAJOR RISKS FOR UNPREPARED CITIES

By National Science Foundation, April 7, 2011 (the scope of this reference is worldwide)

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=119165&org=NSF&from=news

Cities worldwide are failing to take necessary steps to protect residents from the likely impacts of climate change, even though billions of urban dwellers are vulnerable to heat waves, sea level rise and other changes associated with warming temperatures.

A new examination of urban policies by Patricia Romero Lankao at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colo., in conjunction with an international research project on cities and climate change, warns that many of the world's fast-growing urban areas, especially in developing countries, will likely suffer disproportionately from the impacts of changing climate.

11201

EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE UNITED STATES 2009

18th annual report, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy, March 2011, 86 pages.

[http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/ghg_report/pdf/0573\(2009\).pdf](http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/ghg_report/pdf/0573(2009).pdf)

There is a summary at http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/ghg_report/

For this report, activity data on coal and natural gas consumption and electricity sales and losses by sector were obtained from the January 2011 Monthly Energy Review (MER).

In keeping with current international practice, this report presents data on greenhouse gas emissions in million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent. The data can be converted to carbon equivalent units by multiplying by 12/44.

Data on ozone-depleting gases with high global warming potentials (high-GWP gases) are obtained directly from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For this report, updated EPA values were available for hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs); however, no updates were available for per fluorocarbons (PFCs) or sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), and last year's values are used instead.

11202

FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR CRISIS

By Richard J. Campbell and Mark Holt, Congressional Research Service updated March 24, 2011, 7 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159783.pdf>

The earthquake on March 11, 2011, off the east coast of Honshu, Japan's largest island, reportedly caused an automatic shutdown of eleven of Japan's fifty-five operating nuclear power plants.¹ Most of the shutdowns proceeded without incident. However, the plants closest to the epicenter, Fukushima and Onagawa (see Figure 1), were damaged by the earthquake and resulting tsunami. The Fukushima Daiichi plant subsequently suffered hydrogen explosions and probable nuclear fuel damage, releasing significant amounts of radioactive material into the environment.

11203

GEOLOGY FOR A CHANGING WORLD 2010-2020: IMPLEMENTING THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SCIENCE STRATEGY

By Circular 1369, U.S. Geological Survey, March 2011, 78 pages.

http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1369/pdf/circular1369_final.pdf

There is a summary at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1369/>

This report describes a science strategy for the geologic activities of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the years 2010–2020. It presents six goals with accompanying strategic actions and products that implement the science directions of USGS Circular 1309, “Facing Tomorrow’s Challenges—U.S. Geological Survey Science in the Decade 2007–2017.” These six goals focus on providing the geologic underpinning needed to wisely use our natural resources, understand and mitigate hazards and environmental change, and understand the relationship between humans and the environment. The goals emphasize the critical role of the USGS in providing long-term research, monitoring, and assessments for the Nation and the world. Further, they describe measures that must be undertaken to ensure geologic expertise and knowledge for the future.

11204

THE JAPANESE NUCLEAR INCIDENT: TECHNICAL ASPECTS

By Jonathan Medalia, Congressional Research Service, March 29, 2011, 16 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159794.pdf>

Japan's nuclear incident has engendered much public and congressional concern about the possible impact of radiation on the Japanese public, as well as possible fallout on U.S. citizens. This report provides information on technical aspects of the nuclear incident, with reference to human health.

While some radioactive material from the Japanese incident may reach the United States, it appears most unlikely that this material will result in harmful levels of radiation. In traveling thousands of miles between the two countries, some radioactive material will

decay, rain will wash some of it out of the air, and its concentration will diminish as it disperses.

Many atoms are stable; they remain in their current form indefinitely. Other atoms are unstable, or radioactive. They “decay” or “disintegrate,” emitting energy through various forms of radiation. Each form has its own characteristics and potential for human health effects.

11205

LANGUISHING LANGUAGES

By Ben Block, Worldwatch, Vol. 23, No. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 24-28.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

Almost half of the world’s 6700 languages could become extinct by the end of this century, according to one estimate made by the United Nations. If those languages die, a unique view of the world will expire with them. People who live close to their land and rely upon its resources for their existence use their language to describe their environment with a precision and nuance that other languages can’t approach. Currently, experts estimate that some 470 languages are on the critical list, 182 of them in the Western Hemisphere, 152 in the Pacific and the remainder divided among other regions. Block reports on one successful effort to resuscitate a dying language in the Hawaiian Islands. The native language was forbidden in the schools after the United States annexed the islands in the 19th Century, so by the 1980s, very few children in Hawaii spoke the language. Parents boycotted the schools and developed their own curriculum to revive the language for a new generation, and now thousands of youngsters speak the language of “Aloha.” Some other tribal groups have turned to traditional songs as a tool in language preservation.

11206

NATURAL LABORATORY

By Julie Cart, National Wildlife, April/May 2011.

<http://www.nwf.org/en/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2011/Studying-Global-Warming-at-Yellowstone.aspx>

Yellowstone National Park has become a foremost laboratory for study of the effects of global warming because it is so close to its original state and hosts such a wide variety of flora and fauna. Scientists have already recorded changes in water levels, a rise in destructive pine beetle infestations, and negative, or potentially negative, impacts on fish and wildlife species. Climate change presents a significant management challenge to this unique ecosystem. Scientists in Yellowstone look to create new strategies for protecting the diversity of such compromised natural preserves.

11207

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCE: RESEARCH, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OUTREACH

Report of a committee of the National Research Council, National Academies Press, March 2011 (244 pages).

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13092

There is a news release at

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=13092>

WASHINGTON — A new National Research Council report presents a 20-year road map for increasing U.S. resilience to earthquakes, including a major earthquake that could strike a highly populated area. The report was mostly written prior to the March 11 earthquake in Japan, but the committee of experts who authored it noted that the Japanese experience is a reminder of the devastation that can occur even in a country acknowledged as a leader in implementing earthquake-resilience measures.

In recent decades, destructive earthquakes in the U.S. have only been moderate to strong in size or have occurred in sparsely populated areas; the country has not suffered a truly devastating earthquake in more than a hundred years. Because of this, the committee expressed concern that many people have been lulled into a false sense of security that the nation already is earthquake resilient. The committee highlighted the results of a recent earthquake-scenario exercise in Los Angeles, which indicated that a magnitude-7.8 earthquake would result in staggering losses, and noted the lack of disaster resilience demonstrated by Hurricane Katrina.

The report identifies an 18-task road map for implementing the strategic plan adopted by the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), which would make the nation earthquake resilient. Established by Congress in 1977, the multiagency program is led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Science Foundation, and U.S. Geological Survey.

The report endorses NEHRP's 2008 strategic plan and stresses that the road map tasks are required to develop the nation's capacity to maintain important community functions and recover quickly following damaging earthquakes. The committee also emphasized that a dedicated and strategic effort is needed to diffuse knowledge gained by the NEHRP into communities.

Funding for NEHRP totaled \$129.7 million in 2009. The committee estimated that the cost for its earthquake-resilience road map would be \$306 million annually over the first five years.

NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY CONCERNS

Backgrounder by Toni Johnson, Council on Foreign Relations, updated March 30, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/europerussia/nuclear-power-safety-concerns/p10534>

The March 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami that severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi power plant has dampened what had been a renewed interest in nuclear power twenty-five years after the explosion at Chernobyl in northern Ukraine. That interest was sparked by rising energy demands in emerging markets and developing nations as well as the need to reduce use of fossil fuels in response to climate change, making nuclear more attractive though less competitive than other types of power (PDF). But the 2011 Fukushima incident has led to new scrutiny of plant safety regulations and emergency measures, and to questions about reactor design and how to deal with spent nuclear fuel. Still, while experts say Fukushima is likely to have some impact on nuclear power going forward, it is unlikely to be as disruptive for the industry as Chernobyl.

11209

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SITES: MAPS OF SEISMIC HAZARDS AND POPULATION CENTERS

By Anthony Andrews, Congressional Research Service, March 29, 2011, 10 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/159787.pdf>

Currently, 104 commercial nuclear power plants operate on 64 sites in the 48 contiguous United States. 1 Sixty-nine of the 104 are pressurized water reactors (PWR) and the 35 remaining are boiling water reactors (BWR). The PWR plants are based on Babcock & Wilcox, Combustion Engineering, and Westinghouse designs. The BWR plants are based on a series of General Electric designs. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received 28 Combined License (COL) applications for new reactors based on advanced reactor designs (Table 2). Three COL applications will involve new sites.

CRS determined the coordinates of plant sites using web-based applications and overlaid the sites on base maps of:

1. Quaternary faults,
2. Seismic hazards in terms of percent gravitational acceleration,
3. Levels of horizontal ground shaking (gravitational acceleration) that have a 2-in-100 (2%) probability of being exceeded in a 50-year period, and
4. Metropolitan populations

11210

POPULATION 7 BILLION

By Robert Kunzig, National Geographic, vol. 219, no. 1, January 2011, pp. 32//69.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/01/seven-billion/kunzig-text>

Kunzig notes that the world's population will soon reach seven billion, with more than 95% of that population growth occurring in developing countries. While wealthy nations are currently using the most resources, emerging economies are catching up fast. This is the first in a series of in-depth stories that National Geographic will run in 2011 on population. In this first segment, the author, environment editor for the magazine, sketches out a natural history of population. The challenges associated with population growth seem endless: poverty, food and water supply, world health, climate change, deforestation, and fertility rates. Kunzig notes that there has been concern about population pressures, since the first papers on demography were written in the 17th century. Over 300 years later, says Kunzig, "we are still grappling with the outcome of *People v. Planet*", but the real problem is not overpopulation but poverty.

11211

RESPONDING TO GLOBAL FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

Report by World Bank staff, April 4, 2011, 39 pages.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/22887406/DC2011-0002%28E%29FoodSecurity.pdf>

International food prices are spiking again for the second time in three years, igniting concerns about a repeat of the 2008 food price crisis and its consequences for the poor. In February 2011, the World Bank Food Price Index reached its 2008 peak, after rising by 47 percent since June 2010. In addition to higher prices, the variability of international grain prices (around its mean) doubled during the period between 2005 and 2010 relative to the period between 1990 and 2005, sugar price variability tripled, and rice variability is four times higher. Price volatility is now back to similar levels experienced in the 1970s. Variability in prices is problematic when variations are large and unpredictable, as they pose fundamental food security risks for consumers and governments, while discouraging needed investment in agriculture for development through increased financial risks for producers and traders. They are occurring now in a period when expanding the supply of food

11212

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2011: ADOLESCENCE – AN AGE OF OPPORTUNITY

By UNICEF, February 2011, 138 pages.

http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_57468.html

The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence – An Age of Opportunity examines the global state of adolescents; outlines the challenges they face in health, education, protection and participation; and explores the risks and vulnerabilities of this pivotal stage. The report highlights the singular opportunities that adolescence offers, both for adolescents themselves and for the societies they live in. The accumulated evidence demonstrates that investing in adolescents' second decade is our best hope of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and inequity and of laying the foundation for a more peaceful, tolerant and equitable world.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

11213

5 MYTHS ABOUT THE “INFORMATION AGE”

By Robert Darnton, Chronicle of Higher Education online, April 17, 2011

<http://chronicle.com/article/5-Myths-About-the-Information/127105/>

Confusion about the nature of the so-called information age has led to a state of collective false consciousness. It's no one's fault but everyone's problem, because in trying to get our bearings in cyberspace, we often get things wrong, and the misconceptions spread so rapidly that they go unchallenged. Taken together, they constitute a font of proverbial non-wisdom.

11214

THE CLOUD: UNLEASHING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Speech by Julius Genachowski, chairman, U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in Brussels, March 24, 2011

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-305399A1.pdf

This revolution in the fast and free flow of information is having a profound effect on world history, as we see in the Middle East and North Africa. And I believe a positive effect -- as people around the world are empowered with information, the ability to connect, and the opportunity to have a voice in their own governance.

11215

CONFRONTING THE CYBER THREAT

Backgrounder by Jonathan Masters, Council on Foreign Relations, March 17, 2011.

<http://www.cfr.org/technology-and-foreign-policy/confronting-cyber-threat/p15577>

A series of high-profile events in 2010 and 2011 highlighted the increasing and multi-faceted threat of cyberattacks. These include the espionage hacks on Google and Western energy companies (WSJ), the Stuxnet (VanityFair) infiltration of Iranian nuclear sites, and the targeting of government networks in South Korea (BBC). U.S. cybersecurity policy continues to evolve to meet the challenges, but critical gaps remain, including the incomplete protection of private-sector networks and infrastructure critical to national security, such as power grids and financial networks. Upon assuming office in 2009, President Barack Obama declared cyberspace a strategic national asset and requested a complete review (PDF) of federal efforts to defend the nation's digital infrastructure. Current U.S. cybersecurity policy splits responsibilities between the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, with the former managing "dot mil" and the latter "dot gov" domains. But U.S. policy still lacks a coherent approach to protecting vital digital assets outside of the government and, in most cases, relies on the voluntary participation of private industry.

11216

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

By Anton Wohlers, Choice, vol. 48, no. 4, December 2010, pp. 627-635.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

The author, a research director and professor at Cameron University, discusses the Internet as the most visible representative of all the innovations in information and communication technologies (ICTs). Wohlers notes that the Internet has had a profound effect on political practices in most societies, and ICTs have played an increasingly influential role in shaping social relationships, political power, democratic government, and public services sector across the globe. However, given that the Internet continues to give rise to new forms of interaction between citizens and governments, this new field of study remains in flux. The essay first goes into a brief discussion of the governance of the Internet and society, followed by a second section that focuses on works that address the impact of the Internet and politics on each other, with a special focus on how the Internet affects the democratic process. The final section includes several comparative studies and books that examine the use of the Internet, generally by governments, to provide public services.

11217

EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL MEDIA: PART I

By Ken Strutin, Published on February 6, 2011.

<http://www.llrx.com/features/legalissuessocialmedia.htm>

Social media is engaging masses of people in unprecedented ways. At the same time, the diversity of social networking applications has permeated and extended the range of legal investigation, discovery and litigation. As human activity is played out and recorded online, the laws governing cyber-behavior, privacy and discovery continue to evolve. And the distinction between public and private discourse blurs as the demand grows to fill limitless self-published cyber-columns.

11218

EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL MEDIA: PART II

By Ken Strutin, LLRX.com, March 21, 2011.

<http://www.llrx.com/features/legalissuessocialmedia2.htm>

This second part of Ken Strutin's online survey focuses on recent items appearing in professional journals and blogs, law reviews, reports, books and secondary sources, along with references to current awareness sources.

11219

GOOGLE AND MONEY!

By Charles Petersen, New York Review of Books, December 9, 2010.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/dec/09/google-and-money/>

In his review of two new books about the impact of the Google search engine, *GOOGLED*, by Ken Auletta, and *THE SHALLOWS*, by Nicholas Carr, the author discusses Google's history, Internet "neutrality" that gives data equal priority, and the threat to individual privacy posed by increasingly sophisticated online advertising techniques that compromise Net neutrality. Remedies suggested to protect users include "Do Not Track" options and an effective wall between data collected to provide services and that for targeted commercial purposes.

11220

INTERNET FREEDOM: HISTORIC ROOTS AND THE ROAD FORWARD

By Alec Ross, SAIS Review of International Affairs, vol. 30, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2010, pp.3-15.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/sais_review/summary/v030/30.2.ross.html

The author, Senior Advisor for Innovation to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, is tasked with maximizing the potential of technology in service of America's diplomatic and development goals. This article addresses the need to protect and promote the positive social and economic benefits of network technologies by mapping out the principles of Internet freedom, its history, contemporary context and conceptual framework, and providing an overview of how the work of the State Department can help achieve its goals. While in many regards, limits to Internet freedom have grown across the globe, the State Department has and will continue to promote freedom through diplomacy, monitoring and reporting, programming, and policy. In her remarks on Internet freedom in January of 2010, Secretary of State Clinton said, "On their own, new technologies do not take sides in the struggle for freedom and progress, but the United States does. We stand for a single Internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas." It is a complicated project that spans difficult issues in economics, human rights, and social opportunity but it is rooted in simple principles that have stood the test of time. Open societies offering equal access to an unfettered marketplace of ideas and commerce flourish and deliver social and economic benefits to their citizens. The work of Internet freedom seeks to bring these goals into twenty-first century statecraft.

11221

KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY RESOURCES 2011 - AN INTERNET MINIGUIDE ANNOTATED LINK COMPILATION

By Marcus P. Zillman, LLRX, Published on March 12, 2011.

<http://www.llrx.com/features/knowledgediscovery2011.htm>

This new guide by Marcus P. Zillman focuses on the most current and reliable resources for knowledge discovery available on the Internet. With the constant addition of new and pertinent information to the web, it is very easy to experience information overload. These carefully selected knowledge and information discovery sources will help you accomplish your research goals.

MY MONSTER, MY SELF: ON NICHOLAS CARR AND WILLIAM POWERS

By Gary Greenberg, *The Nation*, March 16, 2011.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/159279/my-monster-my-self-nicholas-carr-and-william-powers>

The author writes that mobile phones and the Internet have made the young fundamentally different than older adults. Greenberg reviews Nicholas Carr's *THE SHALLOWS* and William Powers' *HAMLET'S BLACKBERRY*, which attempt to tell us who we are becoming now that we swim in an endless stream of digital data. Their books are in part confessional accounts of their discovery of their dependence on their cell phones and how the online life has changed them. Reading has been supplanted, as Carr puts it, by "the speedy, superficial skimming of information" culled from the links generated by a Google search, which discourages "any deep, prolonged engagement with a single argument, idea, or narrative." Constantly in the digital crowd, we are deprived of depth and substance, even when we don't know it. With every Google search or friend request or tweet or stolen look at your BlackBerry, you are that much more firmly plugged into the collective and that much less in touch with yourself. Some scientists have found that daily use of digital devices "stimulates brain cell alteration." The flood of information makes us more susceptible to distraction; if we want to preserve the health of our brains, says Greenberg, we must carve out a "peaceful spot where contemplativeness can work its restorative magic."

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR TRUSTED IDENTITIES IN CYBERSPACE

By White House, April 2011, 52 pages.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/NSTICstrategy_041511.pdf

There is a White House news release, April 15, 2011, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/15/administration-releases-strategy-protect-online-consumers-and-support-in>

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Obama Administration released the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC), which seeks to better protect consumers from fraud and identity theft, enhance individuals' privacy, and foster economic growth by enabling industry both to move more services online and to create innovative new services. The NSTIC aims to make online transactions more trustworthy, thereby giving businesses and consumers more confidence in conducting business online.

"The Internet has transformed how we communicate and do business, opening up markets, and connecting our society as never before. But it has also led to new challenges, like online fraud and identity theft, that harm consumers and cost billions of dollars each year," said President Obama. "By making online transactions more trustworthy and better protecting privacy, we will prevent costly crime, we will give businesses and consumers new confidence, and we will foster growth and untold innovation. That's why this initiative is so important for our economy."

11224

“REGARDLESS OF FRONTIERS”: THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE.

Discussion draft, Center for Democracy & Technology, April 2011, 64 pages.

http://www.cdt.org/files/pdfs/CDT-Regardless_of_Frontiers_v0.5.pdf

The Internet empowers individuals around the world with the potential to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas in unprecedented ways. However, the Internet is under pressure as governments grapple with new challenges associated with this unique medium.

This report explores how the internationally recognized right to freedom of expression should apply to the Internet. It examines existing jurisprudence from major international and regional human rights instruments and explores new challenges (and opportunities) for freedom of expression in the digital age. Finally, given the unique nature of the Internet, the report puts forth progressive interpretations of human rights norms to ensure the broadest extension of human rights protections in the digital age.

The report is intended to spark further research, discussion, and action among government, civil society, and industry actors. CDT is releasing version 0.5 of this paper as a discussion draft, which we will revise with stakeholder feedback.

11225

SHAREPOINT, TRAINING NOT REQUIRED

By Lorette S.J. Weldon, LLRX, Published on March 20, 2011.

<http://www.llrx.com/features/sharepointtrainingnotreq.htm>

Lorette Weldon's research has identified that librarians are using SharePoint in the corporate, government, and non-profit sectors. She expertly identifies and illustrates how to leverage the power of this application through an understanding of the site templates that Microsoft bundles in SharePoint "out-of-the-box". These templates are based on social networking abilities and not program coding. Through "plug and play" efforts librarians can find the features in SharePoint that will assist them in managing their multifaceted "collections."

11226

SOVEREIGNTY AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN CYBERSPACE

By James Lewis, Brown Journal of World Affairs, vol. 16, no. 2, Spring/Summer 2010, pp. 55-65.

(The article to be provided by the IRC upon request)

The author, Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, writes that “the concept of cyberspace being a global commons due to its supposed lack of borders is best seen as a wish rather than a description”. The Internet began as a U.S. government enterprise for defense and research, but the government opened it to the public during a period of major political change after the Cold War.

The notion of the Internet as a commons was shaped by the anti-authoritarian culture of the Internet pioneers and the U.S. preference for markets and limited government; this is being challenged by present-day conditions, in which the Internet is no longer an exclusive preserve of the U.S., but an arena in which nations contend. The Internet was never designed to be a system upon which hundreds of millions of people would depend, and in which so much economic activity would take place. Lewis believes that government is crucial to defending the Internet, because sophisticated intelligence and military services would overwhelm private efforts. The Internet is now a public good, and “just as we do not expect airlines to defend our airspace against MiGs, we should not expect private companies to defend cyberspace against foreign governments.”

11227

SYMANTEC INTERNET SECURITY THREAT REPORT: TRENDS FOR 2010

Symantec, April 2011 (20 pages)

https://www4.symantec.com/mktginfo/downloads/21182883_GA_REPORT_ISTR_Main-Report_04-11_HI-RES.pdf

Symantec has established some of the most comprehensive sources of Internet threat data in the world through the Symantec™ Global Intelligence Network. More than 240,000 sensors in more than 200 countries and territories monitor attack activity through a combination of Symantec products and services such as Symantec DeepSight™ Threat Management System, Symantec™ Managed Security Services, Norton™ consumer products, and additional third-party data sources.

Symantec gathers malicious code intelligence from more than 133 million client, server, and gateway systems that have deployed its antivirus products. Additionally, Symantec's distributed honey pot network collects data from around the globe, capturing previously unseen threats and attacks that provide valuable insight into attacker methods.

In addition, Symantec maintains one of the world's most comprehensive vulnerability databases, currently consisting of more than 40,000 recorded vulnerabilities (spanning more than two decades) affecting more than 105,000 technologies from more than 14,000 vendors. Symantec also facilitates the BugTraq mailing list, one of the most popular forums for the disclosure and discussion of vulnerabilities on the Internet, which has approximately 24,000 subscribers who contribute, receive, and discuss vulnerability research on a daily basis.

11228

WEST CENSORING EAST: THE USE OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGIES BY MIDDLE EAST CENSORS 2010-2011

By Authored by Helmi Noman and Jillian C. York., OpenNet Initiative, March 2011, 21 pages.

http://opennet.net/sites/opennet.net/files/ONI_WestCensoringEast.pdf

There is a summary at <http://opennet.net/west-censoring-east-the-use-western-technologies-middle-east-censors-2010-2011>

The OpenNet Initiative has documented network filtering of the Internet by national governments in over forty countries worldwide. Countries use this network filtering as one of many methods to control the flow of online content that is objectionable to the filtering governments for social, political, and security reasons. Filtering is particularly appealing to governments as it allows them to control content not published within their national borders.

National governments use a variety of technical means to filter the Internet; in this paper, we analyze the use of American- and Canadian-made software for the purpose of government-level filtering in the Middle East and North Africa.

In this report, the authors find that nine countries in the region utilize Western-made tools for the purpose of blocking social and political content, effectively blocking a total of over 20 million Internet users from accessing such websites.¹ The authors analyze as well the increasing opacity of the usage of Western-made tools for filtering at the national level.

11229

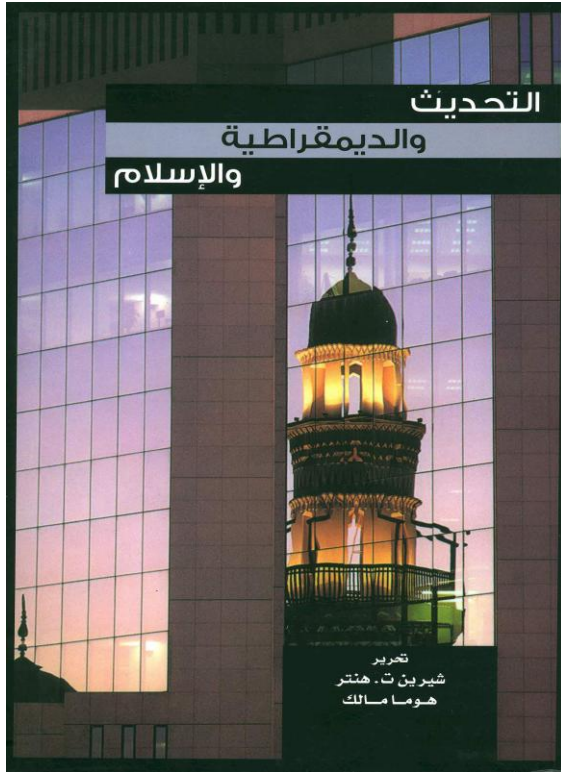
YOUNG ARABS MORE CONNECTED IN 2010

By Gallup, April 11, 2011

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/147035/Young-Arabs-Connected-2010.aspx>

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Technology's pivotal role in the change that swept the Arab world in late 2010 and early 2011 underscores how quickly its young people are gaining access to information and communication technology. Gallup surveys conducted before the unrest show 87% of 15- to 29-year-olds across the Arab League say they have cellular phone access, up from 79% in 2009. Home and community Internet access are up, too, but not nearly as much.

TRANSLATED BOOKS



التحديث والديمقراطية والإسلام
تحرير شيرين ت. هنتر - هوما مالك

Modernization, Democracy, and Islam
By Shireen T. Hunter & Huma Malik

نهضة مصر للطباعة ونشر و التوزيع
21 شارع أحمد عرابي
المهندسين - الجيزة

تحرير شيرين هنتر - هوما ملك

تقديم : أحمد ولد عبد الله

إن سجل العالم الاسلامي متواضع فيما يتعلق بالتحديث ولديمقراطية، غير أن صل هذه الحالة ليس الدين لاسلامى لكنها مجموعة من العوامل من بينها الاستعمار والانظمة التجارية والاقتصادية العالمية ودور الجيش. ويمكن بالتعرف على هذه الاسباب التفكير في أنماط العلاج للتغير في العالمالاسلامى. ويوضح العلماء البارزون المساهمون في هذا الكتاب عوامل جوهرية - بعضها من داخل العالم الاسلامى للاسلام. وعلى عكس التفكير والرأى السائد، فالإسلم لا يتسم بالصلابة أو التحجر اللذين يمنعان التغير، فهو لا يناهض الديمقراطية ولا يعارض التحديث فهذا ليس من أصوله. والإسلام نفسه - كما يوضح لكتاب - ل يعد السبب الأساسى فى القلق الجارى من العالم الإسلامى.

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH

- **Aljazeera’s documentary: The Road to Jan 25**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEZH4OPO_u4&feature=related
- **Human Rights.gov** – “the official United States Government (USG) website for human rights related information”
<http://www.humanrights.gov/>
- **CivilianResponseCorps**
<http://www.civilianresponsecorps.gov/>
- **Public Papers Of The Presidents Of The United States: Barack Obama (2009, Book I)** By U.S. Government Printing Office, 2011
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/pagedetails.action?packageId=PPP-2009-book1>
- **Alexa.com** – find out where the online audience is
<http://www.alexa.com/>
- **Social Bakers** – “heart of Facebook statistics”
<http://www.socialbakers.com/>
- **Netvibes** – “the fastest way to track your real-time web” – create your own dashboard
<http://www.netvibes.com/en>
- **Hootsuite** – “social media dashboard”
<http://hootsuite.com/>
- **Women’s History Month** – a website hosted by the Library of Congress
<http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>



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